

The Leader.

A POLITICAL AND LITERARY REVIEW.

"The one Idea which History exhibits as evermore developing itself into greater distinctness is the Idea of Humanity—the noble endeavour to throw down all the barriers erected between men by prejudice and one-sided views; and, by setting aside the distinctions of Religion, Country, and Colour, to treat the whole Human race as one brotherhood, having one great object—the free development of our spiritual nature."—*Humboldt's Cosmos.*

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1855.

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News of the Week.

DIPLOMACY is in full enjoyment of its season, and has effected a complete change in the relations of the European Powers since arms were laid by for the winter. The array of forces on the whole field of the Continent is modified. Without laying too much stress on any change that may have come over Austria, we find Russia placed more decisively in the minority; two of the Scandinavian States joined with the Allies, and Germany more decisively isolated. According to general and very plausible report, this change has been effected by two acts. The proposals of peace have been made to Russia by Austria, with the concurrence of the Western Powers; and the new treaty, offensive and defensive, has been formed by France and England, with Sweden and Norway.

Whether Russia make peace or not, the proposals have modified her position. They are said to comprise the non-restoration of the forts dismantled in the Black Sea; the complete neutrality of that sea by exclusion of all war ships; the complete freedom of the Danube; cession of a part of Bessarabia bordering on the Russian river; abandonment of the special protectorate over the Christian subjects of Turkey; non-restoration of the fortifications dismantled in the Baltic; and, say some accounts, such a disposal of the Principalities as would amount to the erection of a new and independent kingdom, virtually if not positively. These conditions advance considerably beyond the "four points," and would undoubtedly place an effectual restraint upon Russia in the Black Sea. Whether they will be accepted or not is a question that can be decided only by time. Some, indeed, affirm that it is decided already, and in the negative. Even so the entire advantage of the proposals would not be lost. The impulse given by the junction of Sweden and Norway to the alliance, must tend very much to diminish the influence of Russia in central Europe; and a fresh rejection of terms that offer her an opportunity of concluding peace when the next campaign must certainly be disastrous, cannot fail to irritate those Governments that are most desirous of ending

ing the war. Austria and Prussia may both lose patience with a monarch that is so boastful, or a Government that is so barbarous, as to be incapable of appreciating probabilities.

The new treaty between the Swedish Government and the Western Powers materially affects the Baltic question. On the face of it the compact is extremely simple. It stipulates, on the one side, that the Swedish and Norwegian Government shall not make any concession of territory to Russia; and on the other side, that if Russia attempt to take territory from Sweden or Norway, the Western Powers shall supply troops for the defence of Sweden. The question arises out of the action of Russia on her North Western frontier. She has been making surveys and other approaches, which imply that she intends to appropriate the most Northern and Eastern portions of Norway, by which means she would push her own boundary to the West of the Cape that forms the uppermost point of Norway, and would establish herself on the Western coast, deeply indented with bays not frozen, and affording harbours that might be fortified, and a marine population that would powerfully recruit any Russian marine. An acquisition of this kind would place Russia on the Atlantic; Sweden would soon follow the fate of Finland. An accident disclosed this manoeuvre; Sweden was alarmed; she foresaw a further spoliation, and her fears opportunely came in to aid the representations of the Western Powers, that it is the interest of Sweden to join the alliance for the defence of Europe against the encroachments of the great power. Although this treaty may not have been the work of General CANROBERT, it evidently presents new facilities for the operations of the Western Powers in the Baltic.

From "the seat of war," which is now almost exclusively Asia, we have nothing but a confirmation of the intelligence [that Kars has really surrendered; that General WILLIAMS is a prisoner of war; and that OMAR PACHA has approached nearer to Kutais for the relief of Kars. Since that fortress has been ceded, his position appears to be precarious; MOURAVIEFF being disengaged to turn back upon the new assailant.

We are still without the American PRESIDENT'S Message, though it may now be expected daily.

Congress had assembled, but it had failed to get through the preliminary business, without which the Message cannot be read. The diffusion and confusion of parties threaten to introduce new complications; and it is difficult to trace the probable course of political movements. One thing, however, is evident; the Americans have so completely scouted the idea of hostilities with this country, that our Government has felt ashamed, and has abandoned the pretence that there was any necessity for bullying.

In another question, the United States began a quarrel, although they cannot be called aggressors. Mr. MARCY'S letter to the American representative, at Copenhagen, is a distinct announcement that the Americans will not pay the Sound dues; will not enter into any convention, in order to arrange a compensation to Denmark for surrendering the dues; will not consider the guarantee given to Denmark by the European settlement when the Sound dues were confirmed to her; will not, in the slightest degree, make account of "the balance of power in Europe." The United States have postponed the enforcement of their refusal, but it is quite evident that they intend to refuse, and that Denmark must look to her compensation from those European States, who will, probably, rather buy America off than assist her to fight America.

Other wars have engaged us at home. We have the great Guards' controversy raging, for that which was only a point of gossip last week has been made public by the promulgation of the Guards' memorial. It comes out badly at a time when the public is thinking of making our soldiery less a state pageant and more a working instrument; badly, at a time when officers have distinguished themselves by claims to come home on "urgent private business," and when they have, as some of them have, confirmed the popular feeling that they are drawing-room soldiers, carpet knights, whose privileges are a ridicule and a disgrace to the country that permits them. There is not the slightest probability that the memorial will be granted.

Another arena for conflicts, but, we trust, of a useful kind, is established in the Board of Works. The first preliminary meeting has been held; Mr.

NICHOLAY has been elected as provisional chairman—the election of permanent chairman was deferred to another meeting. The conditions of the election laid down by the members are, that the chairman shall have no more than £1,500 a year, that he shall give all his time to his duties, and that the election shall not be by ballot, but by open voting. The last point has been noticed as showing the public feeling against ballot voting; but, it must be remembered, that the Council of Forty are exercising a trust, not enjoying a suffrage of their own.

War also—social war—is going on in our Assize Courts, and in that society which gives materials for our Assize Courts. The law annals of the week are a bitter satire. In these economical days, DAVIDSON and GORDON, well-connected speculators, whose dabbings in spelter and spoliation are well known, have got off upon a technicality, frustrating the jurisdiction of the court. There are, however, other proceedings to be taken against them. The case helps, with scores of others, to show how feeble are the mechanical aids to the credit of speculators, and the security of commerce.

The case of Mrs. WOOLER has been followed up by another poisoning case at Tewkesbury, not quite so startling as the intrusion of crime into a household, but more ghastly in its extent. Mr. COOK is a man apparently with more money than purpose; he hangs about at race-courses, taking a desperate interest in the success of his own horse; he has money in his purse; he is hail, fellow, well met with all and sundry, near him. Sharing his bets as well as his society, is Mr. PALMER, who prescribes for his ailments, and whom he accuses of drugging him. COOK is ill, three medical men prescribe, one administers the medicines, and he dies with no trace of one drug that was prescribed, but with every sign that he is killed with strychnine—one of the most deadly, sudden, and elusive of poisons. He falls, another victim to the prevalent fashion of poisoning.

HEALTH OF LONDON.—The effect of the cold weather recently experienced is now written very legibly in the mortuary registers. The deaths registered in London, which in the previous week were 1,099, rose last week to 1,271; and it may be stated that the rate of mortality represented by this number of deaths is at least equal to the average for this advanced period of the year. Since the second week of November, when the deaths were below 1,000, and the mean temperature was 41 deg., the returns exhibit an increase of 300 deaths, and the weekly temperature has declined to 32.7 deg. There were registered last week 627 males and 644 females. Of these, without distinction of sex, 574 died under 20 years of age, 182 at 20 years and under 40, 241 were from 40 to 60 years of age, 202 60 years old and less than 80; and, instead of 33 octogenarians who died in the previous week, 60 died last week. A woman died in the Greenwich workhouse at the great age of 101. Last week, the births of 781 boys and 791 girls, in all 1,572 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1845-54, the average number was 1,440. The lowest temperature of the week occurred on Thursday, when the thermometer fell to 21.3 deg. The highest temperature in the week occurred on Saturday, and was 43 deg. The mean temperature of the water of the Thames was 37.2 deg. The water was coldest on the day on which the air was warmest. The wind, which at the first was in the north, blew afterwards from the south-west till the end of the week, when it turned to north-west. The air was quiet. Snow fell on Monday; some rain and sleet on Friday.—*From the Registrar-General's Weekly Return.*

THE FROST has again set in with great severity, and skating has recommenced in the parks. Several persons have fallen in, but no deaths have occurred.

THE CITY BURIAL GROUND.—A letter from Archdeacon Hale was read before the City Commission of Sewers, on Tuesday, stating the willingness of that reverend gentleman that the new burial ground at Ilford for the city of London should be consecrated without delay. A letter was also read from Mr. Massey, secretary to Sir George Grey, to the effect that an order in council of the 13th of September, 1854, had authorised the keeping open of St. Andrew's burial ground (the hideous condition of which has recently attracted attention) until the new cemetery should be ready. Mr. Massey expresses surprise at the delay in finishing that cemetery; and it would seem that his letter (which bears date some days previously to that of Archdeacon Hale) has had some influence in determining the course now taken by the church dignitary.

THE WAR.

ANOTHER victory of the Turks over the Russians is reported, but not confirmed. The result of the action is said to have been the taking possession by Omar Pacha of the fortified town of Khoni, behind the river Zakeni-Khal, about five leagues from Kutais. Twelve thousand furs were found in this place. Omar pushed on, and arrived before Kutais, which he prepared to attack. General Mouravieff is said to have despatched a portion of his army against Omar; but, if so, it is not to be doubted that the Turkish Generalissimo will "give a good account" of his enemy. The Auxiliary Division, which left Erzeroum for Kars, has not been able to advance.

Of the fall of Kars there now remains little doubt. The Ottoman Generals had previously offered to surrender the place, if permitted to retreat to Erzeroum; but those terms were refused by General Mouravieff. On the 10th of November, the garrison made a sortie, but were repulsed; and on the 28th of the same month the place surrendered. The desperate condition of the town for want of food was made manifest early in November by the Turks voluntarily surrendering sixteen Russian prisoners, obviously because they would diminish the stock of provisions. The writer of a letter from St. Petersburg, who relates this story, praises "the happy audacity" of General Susslow's advance upon the Drouen Dag, which so "imposed" upon Veli Pacha, that he abandoned all hope of relieving the garrison. He adds that it would have been easy to have advanced to the rescue of Kars after the victory of the 29th of September; but the attempt was deferred until Mouravieff had had time to recruit his army. Galigiani states that the park of artillery at Kars when it surrendered numbered 120 field-pieces, and a few heavy siege guns. The garrison is believed to have been about 16,000 strong. The defiles between Kars and Erzeroum are held by the Russians, in whose hands General Williams and all the Turkish Pachas, as well as the whole of the garrison, are prisoners of war. The *Invalide Russe* publishes a report of a "sanguinary action" which took place on the 6th of November, between a Russian corps under General Koucherinko and a body of mountaineers of the tribe of the Tchetchen. The Russians seemed to have commenced the movement, and, as far as can be gathered from the telegraphic report, to have been worsted.

Ice and snow are now diffused pretty generally over all the various theatres of the war. In the north, the crystal barriers are built up for the next five or six months; snow covers the wide tableland of Armenia; and frost has seized the Crimea in its grip. A hurricane, also, has swept over the Allied camp; several tents have been blown away; and the Tchernaya has overflowed. No casualties have occurred on the coast. It is rumoured that important movements of troops in the Crimea are about to be made. Three thousand troops of the Egyptian Contingent have embarked for Asia.

Peace is still to be talked of, but remains as uncertain as ever; and Sweden, to a certain extent, and in a negative way, has come into the Alliance. The Czar, however, stands firm. His main force at Odessa, it is reported, will be removed to Nicholas; and a concentration of forces on all the strong positions of the Black Sea and the Baltic will take place. An order of the Superior Council of Administration at Warsaw enjoins all the inhabitants of the kingdom to offer gifts to the defenders of Sebastopol; for the Poles require to be coerced into gratitude towards the paternal government. Rumour states that, after a lingering illness, Paskiewitch is dead; but Rumour has killed many other persons in connection with the war who have since turned up, alive.

Such is the brief sum total of the war news of the week; and it would almost seem as if, for the Christmas season, we were to have a temporary pause in hostilities, that we might indulge in dreams of peace.

CLOSE OF "THE SEASON" IN THE SEA OF AZOF.

The following report has been addressed by Captain Sherard Osborn to Sir Edmund Lyons:—

"Sir,—Being now, in accordance with your instructions, on my road to rejoin your flag, I have the honour to report the close of operations in the Sea of Azof and the proceedings of the squadron in that sea subsequent to my last letter dated off Gheisk, 7th of November, 1855. On the 7th I received your instructions, with notices relative to neutrals quitting

the Sea of Azof on the 20th of November, 1855. The weather became most severe, and I could only succeed in serving the notices upon the authorities on shore at Marioupol. But on the 8th of November the shipping anchored off Marioupol were duly warned, and on the 9th, those off Taganrog likewise. A gale of extreme violence from the eastward blew continually from that date until the 18th of November. I then immediately served a notice upon the neutral shipping in Berdianak. There, from M. Gopevitch, as well as previously at Taganrog and Marioupol, we learnt that the Russian authorities had kept the neutrals in quarantine ever since their arrival, and that the likelihood of cargoes being procured was almost at an end. A Russian officer at Marioupol laughed at the idea of the neutrals believing they would get wheat this year, and told Commander Kennedy, whom I sent in there with a flag of truce, that the neutrals must stay the winter. Under these circumstances, looking to your wishes and instructions upon the subject, it became a cause of great anxiety for me lest, by the sudden commencement of winter, or intentionally, the neutral vessels should fail to quit the sea on the 20th of November. I therefore, as the ice had begun to make and the temperature to fall rapidly, after the 13th despatched all the squadron to Kertch, except the Ardent, Snake, and Clinker, and with them proceeded up the Gulf of Azof. We arrived off Marioupol on the 19th, and found all neutrals had sailed for Kertch, and on the 20th I sighted Taganrog and found the roads empty, all the vessels that were there having likewise left. The ice already extended on either hand some miles from the shore, the Don appeared to be frozen, and every indication of winter having set in in that neighbourhood was apparent. At Marioupol, the river or harbour was frozen, and much ice lined the coast as far down as Bielaia lighthouse, the temperature at mid-day as low as 29° Fahrenheit. From thence I separated the squadron so as to examine the whole coast from Yemchi to Yenikaleh lighthouse most minutely, and not a single boat of the smallest description was to be seen."

THE MUD IN THE CRIMEA.

We are all ankle-deep in mud. No, that would be nothing. It would be no great matter of complaint or grievance if we had to deal with the ordinary material, so familiar to all Londoners after a few wet days, before the scavengers remove the formidable soft parapets which line the kerbstones. That can be scraped off, cleaned, rubbed away, or washed out. This nothing but long and persevering efforts, continually renewed, and combining all the former operations, can remove. It sticks in party coats to the shoes, and will insist on being brought into clean huts and tents to visit your friends. It has a great affection for straws, with which it succeeds in working itself up into a kind of gigantic brick, somewhat underdone, in which condition it threatens to build your legs into the ground if you stand long enough in one place to give it a chance; and it mightily affects horseshoes also; and sucks them off with a loud smack of relish in those little ravines between rocky hill sides in which it exercises the greatest influence. Literally and truly, it is like glue half-boiled, and spread over the face of the earth for the depth of several feet. It is no joke for a soldier to see his sleeping-place, in hut or tent, covered with this nasty slime; but they cannot be kept clean. One step outside and you are done for. The mud is lying in wait for you, and you just carry back as much on your feet as if you walked a mile. Carts stick immovably in the ground, or the wheels and axles fly into pieces from the strain of the horses and mules, which have led a wretched existence indeed ever since this weather began. The new huts are much complained of, and it is said they are frail, ill-made, full of chinks and knots, which drop out, and leave inimical little embrasures for the wind to shoot through. During a moderately strong breeze of wind, a short time ago, the roof of one of the huts blew off. . . . There is an unchartered corporation in the town of Kadikoi, with a mayor and aldermen, or town councillors, and a vigorous administrative staff that would astonish the elder brethren about Guildhall. They have a machinery of scavengers and sewer-men, and they pay about £120 a-month for keeping their city in order. This weather, however, does not contribute to their comfort, and diminishes their profits, and the condition of the roads makes their chariot-wheels drive heavily. As to these roads, on which so much depends, it is not possible to express an opinion yet; but a portion of the section below the Col is in a very bad state, as I can attest, and I am told that the portion in question is just the very part where the military engineers interfered with the civil engineer.—*Times Correspondent.*

WAR MISCELLANEA.

THE HEALTH OF THE ARMY.—Dr. Hall, in a report to General Codrington, dated December 4th, says:—"The weather has been boisterous, wet, cold, and changeable, which has occasioned an increase of

catarrhal affections, and added some cases of catarrhal ophthalmia to our list; but the admissions under this head have decreased nearly one-half during the present week, and it is to be hoped by care and removal of those labouring under the complaint to the Monastery that the disease will not extend. There has been a decrease in the number of admissions from fever, but an increase of mortality, confined chiefly to the Land Transport Corps, as fourteen out of the nineteen deaths that occurred during this week took place in that branch of the service alone. This corps has a heavier sick list than any division of the army, which is not to be wondered at, as many of the Europeans have recently arrived in the country, and are not yet acclimated, and the natives bear fatigue and the vicissitudes of weather, like that which we now have, but ill."

MORE GERMAN NEUTRALITY.—Within the last ten days (says a despatch from Tilsit in the *Daily News*) several large caravans of horses—numbering in all about 1,500—have passed through this city of Russia. They are fine strong animals, equally serviceable for cavalry and artillery, and were purchased by the Russian government in the kingdom of Hanover, under the superintendence of a Russian general officer, who also personally accompanies the transport.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

MR. BRIGHT ON THE WAR.

AFTER an interval, Mr. Bright has again opened fire (if the expression be not too military) on the war. On the evening of Friday week, he addressed a meeting of the members and friends of the Marsden Mechanics' Institution; and, after enlarging on the virtues of penny papers, and commenting on the tendency to panics, as regards foreign affairs, to which the English mind is liable (evidenced in the fear of Papal aggression, of French invasion, and of Russian ambition)—a state of things owing to want of knowledge and thought—he proceeded to discuss the question of the alleged barbarism of Russia. He asked:—

"Is it not a singular thing that St. Petersburg, the capital of this barbarous empire, though but a modern city, has a library which, in size, ranks the third in Europe, and is said to contain 10,000 volumes more than the library of the British Museum? Is it not a strange thing that at the southern extremity of this barbarous empire there is a city whose wretched and sanguinary fanatics in this country wish that the Allied fleets should utterly destroy; a city the foundations of which were laid but sixty years ago, and which exported to this country in the year 1848—the year of famine in Ireland—more than 5,300,000 bushels of grain? Surely there is something more and better than barbarism in facts like these; and yet the people of England have been supplied with mental aliment, for two years past or more, full of prejudice, full of exaggeration, and full of falsehood, and the policy they have applauded has been based on misapprehensions of the grossest character. And while they have conjured up these terrors in the East, they seem wholly forgetful of what is passing in the West. Many of you have relatives or friends in America. That young nation has a population about equal to ours in these islands. It has a great internal and external commerce. It has more tonnage in shipping than we have. It has more railroads than we have. It has more newspapers than we have. It has institutions more free than we have—that horrid slavery of the south excepted—and which is no fruit of its institutions, but an unhappy legacy of the past. It has also a great manufacturing interest in different branches. That is the young giant whose shadow ever grows, and there is the true rival of this country. But how do we stand or start in the race? The United States' Government, including all the governments of all its Sovereign States, raises in taxes probably from £12,000,000 to £15,000,000 sterling in the year. England this year will raise in taxes and loans, and will expend nearly £100,000,000. This population must raise and will spend, probably, £80,000,000 within this year more than that population will raise and spend, and in America there is far less poverty and pauperism than in England. Can we run this race on these terms and against these odds? Can we hope to be as well off as America if the products of our industry are thus swept away by the tax-gatherer, and in the vain scheme of saving Europe from imaginary dangers? Can poverty be lessened among us, can education spread, can the brutality of so many of our population be uprooted, can all or anything that good men look for come to us, while the fruits of our industry, the foundation of all social and moral good, are squandered in this manner? Pursue the phantom of military glory for ten years, and expend in that time a sum equal to all the visible property of Lancashire and Yorkshire, and then compare yourself with the United States of America, and where will you be? Pauperism, crime, and political anarchy are the legacies we are preparing for our children, and there is no escape for us

unless we change our course, and resolve to disconnect ourselves from the policy which tends incessantly to embroil us with the nations of the continent of Europe. It is the object of institutions like this, and of meetings like this, to enable us to inform ourselves on great questions of this nature, and therefore I make no apology for referring to them here."

DR. WOLFF ON THE WAR.

The well-known missionary and traveller, the Rev. Dr. Wolff, is at present entertaining the inhabitants of East Brent and its neighbourhood with a series of lectures on the Eastern Churches, and on other subjects connected with his travels in the East. In speaking of the Greek Church, on Thursday week, the Doctor referred to Russia, and in so doing, gave his own views on the present war, to which he is strenuously opposed, on the ground that Russia is a great civilising power, and that its Emperors, from Peter the Great down to the present Alexander II., have not only been wise rulers, but for the most part Christian princes, whose great object has been to raise the barbarous tribes over which they ruled from a state of degradation and slavery to that of civilisation and Christianity. As instances, he mentioned several circumstances relative to the late Emperor Nicholas I., which he knew from personal experience to be facts, and which may not be generally known to the people in England. One of these was, that through the influence of Nicholas, the two unfortunate English travellers, Stoddart and Conolly, were released from prison in Bokhara, and might have returned again to their own country, had not Stoddart refused to acknowledge any protection but that of his own government; another was, that while at Teheran, the Emperor ordered his own Ambassador to supply Dr. Wolff with Bibles in the Russian languages, requesting him to distribute them amongst the Russian slaves and fugitives in Bokhara; thirdly, he mentioned the fact that thirty-six universities has been founded by Nicholas during his reign. In fact of all this, the Doctor thinks it hard that he should be branded as a tyrant and despot, regardless of the lives of his subjects and intent only on his own aggrandisement, and made to bear the whole blame and odium of the present war, whereas the Doctor affirms that the ignorance and credulity of the English people have been imposed upon, and that a fearful amount of bloodshed will lie at the doors of those who have involved us in this war. Dr. Wolff considers the late Emperor Nicholas to have been the greatest prince that the world has seen for some centuries past!—*County Herald*.

The Duke of Richmond, Lord Alfred Hervey, M.P., Mr. W. F. Knatchbull, M.P., the Hon. R. W. Clive, M.P., and Mr. Crauford, M.P., delivered speeches in favour of the war.

AMERICA.

CONGRESS assembled on the 3rd of December, and adjourned after four hours of ineffectual attempts to elect a Speaker. The majority of votes was in favour of Mr. Richardson, of Illinois, a Democrat. On the subject of the tariff, a Washington letter in the *New York Herald* says:—"The Secretary of the Treasury has become converted to the theories of the manufacturers of wool, and will recommend the admission of the raw materials free of duty, including chemicals and dyestuffs in the same category. He does not propose to touch iron; but the backers of this movement in Congress intend to incorporate, if they can, upon the modification a provision allowing of railroad iron to be bonded for five years." The Washington Cabinet, according to the same paper, has rejected Denmark's proposition for a capitalisation, or a tax according to the value of the cargo, in lieu of the present Sound dues. The Governor of South Carolina, in his message to the Legislature, recommends that the law with respect to slaves be so modified as to permit coloured seamen, the subjects of foreign nations, to remain on board their vessels, to be allowed to land whenever the duties of the vessel require it, upon their receiving a written permit to that effect from the Mayor of the port, and that while on land they be subjected to the ordinary restrictions applied to the native coloured population. A collision has occurred in Kansas between the Pro and Anti-Slavery parties. Three Free-Statesmen had attempted to drive Mr. Coleman, a Pro-Slavery settler from his claim near Hickory Point. A struggle ensued, which extended and led to a most serious condition of affairs. The militia was called out; the people of Lawrence armed themselves with five pieces of artillery; sixteen houses have been burnt; and, at the latest advices, order had not been restored.

General Corral, after his entry into Grenada, was arrested on a charge of treason, tried by court-martial, and shot. General Valle has reinforced Grenada with one hundred and forty men. From Mexico, we hear that the seat of Government has been transferred back to the capital. Alvarez was well received on his entry to the city. He declared that his banner was "Popular and Representative Republic," and disavowed all personal ambition.

The New York commercial accounts state that the European news by the Atlantic created a commotion among the dealers in stocks, and large sales were made at a considerable decline of prices, there being no outside demand and no animation among speculators. Government stocks, however, had improved in consequence of the Secretary of the Treasury having announced his intention to redeem further 1,500,000 dollars at a high premium. There was no especial change in the money-market; the demand was good at full rates of interest.

A CONSERVATIVE CHAMPION AND CHAMPIONNESS.

At the general election of 1852, Sir Alexander Cockburn and Mr. Wilcox were returned for Southampton on the Liberal interest; and the Conservatives got up a petition against them, alleging bribery. The petition being referred to a select committee of the House of Commons, a man named Marston was examined to prove the bribery, but the committee disbelieved his statements, and he was indicted for perjury. Marston was brought to trial, and a Mr. Mackey, a solicitor, of Southampton, gave his services gratuitously in conducting the defence; while another of the Conservative party, General Bullock, together with several of his friends, got up a subscription for the purpose of paying all the other expenses. Marston was tried before Lord Campbell at Westminster, and was found guilty. General Bullock, however, conceived that Mr. Mackey had wilfully mismanaged the affair; and he therefore charged Mr. Mackey with having sold his client and betrayed his trust. The latter gentleman, in the course of last December, brought an action against the General, and obtained a verdict with substantial damages. General Bullock, however, was determined not to rest in the matter; and, having written several letters to Lord Palmerston and Lord Campbell, he collected them into a pamphlet, together with some others, and offered the whole to Mr. Ridgway, of Piccadilly, for publication. Mr. Ridgway, though with some hesitation, consented to put his name on the title-page; but, after the pamphlet was printed, he said he must withdraw his name, on account of the libellous nature of the matter. General Bullock, nevertheless, circulated the pamphlet, with a paper stating that it came from Mr. Ridgway. He also induced the editor of the *Hampshire Independent* to publish a letter containing similar libels, upon his promising to give indemnity in case of legal proceedings. In consequence of these libels, Mr. Mackey, during the last few days, has brought an action against General Bullock in the Court of Queen's Bench. Lord Campbell, in his summing up, made some severe remarks on the conduct of the General; and the jury gave a verdict for Mr. Mackey, with £500 damages.

In the course of the trial, Mrs. Bullock was examined. She appears to have been a very "strong-minded" lady, and to have managed all the private arguing with the opposite parties. Speaking of the trial of Marston at Westminster Hall, she said (in the course of cross-examination):—"I was very indignant at the result of the trial. I was taken out of the Hall in consequence. I am very much interested about Mr. Marston. I wrote the letter which appeared in the paper. I wrote every letter in the matter. I prepared the pleas." On which Lord Campbell observed, "They were very long ones, at all events," and there was laughter. The lady also said:—"General Bullock did not wish me to go into the witness-box at the last trial. I came into court."

MRS. PEW AND HER "PINE-APPLE."

Mrs. Pew—a lady who will be most courteously described, under the circumstances, by the convenient epithet "gay"—has brought an action in the Court of Exchequer against a Mr. Rosenthal, to recover compensation for an assault, false imprisonment, and a sum of £75, which she alleged she had expended in paying nurses and necessaries during an illness of Mr. Rosenthal. The lady had formerly lived with a gentleman named Pew, who at his decease had left her a sum of £500, furniture of the value of £1,000, and £200 per annum. She assumed the name of Pew, and in the year 1851 formed an acquaintance with a boarding-house with Mr. Rosenthal. At first, that gentleman was rather "distant;" but he came nearer afterwards, asked the fair Pew if he might "pay his addresses" to her, and apparently got an answer in the affirmative, for the lady suffered herself to be taken out in carriages by Mr. Rosenthal, and indulged in hopes of matrimony. In August, 1853, she was at Ramsgate, and received a letter from Mr. Rosenthal, in consequence of which she went to London to nurse him during an illness. The two subsequently went to Brighton, where they lived together; all the expenses, according to the statement of the fair Pew, being discharged by herself. Their intimacy continued up to May, 1854; after which, Mr. Rosenthal went to Germany, of which country he is a native, though carrying on business as a wine-merchant in Mincing-lane. The letters (which, on

the part of the gentleman, had been signed by the odorous and romantic cognomen of "Pine-apple" now ceased; and Mrs. Pew was left to mourn. But, on the wine-merchant's return, the lady received a letter, appointing her to meet him at the Great Western Railway Hotel; she went, and the faithless wine-merchant introduced the proprietor of the hotel, and assured him that Mrs. Pew was "an infamous bad woman," who had come there to extort money from him.

This conduct caused Mrs. Pew, according to her own account, to be "excited," and she determined to be revenged. All correspondence, of course, was at an end; but, on the trial, the fair plaintiff stated that the "pine-apple" (which must be understood as a synonym for letter-writing) had continued up to the time of the rupture. The revenge was carried out in the usual way under such circumstances. The lady haunted the counting-house of Mr. Rosenthal day after day; "kicked up rows," according to the vernacular expression of the German wine-merchant; tracked him to hotels; threatened, in the hearing of his clerks, that she would "expose" him; and introduced herself to his friends. At length she was told by one of the clerks that Mr. Rosenthal would be obliged to send for a policeman to take her into custody; upon which she valorously replied, "That's the very thing I want, and then I shall be able to expose him," adding that she was quite willing to be taken before a just judge. She was therefore given in custody, but was discharged by Alderman Hunter. She now brought her action for the debt and the false imprisonment.

Mr. Rosenthal contended that he had paid the debt, and that he was justified in giving his tormentor into custody. In cross-examination, Mrs. Pew was shown two receipts of hers for the joint sum of £62; but she swore that she had not received that money, and that she had sent the receipts at the same time that she had requested loans to that amount, because she knew that she could not have got the money otherwise. Being asked by Mr. James, counsel for Mr. Rosenthal, whether she would swear that she paid the household expenses at Brighton, she replied, "To be sure I will. Don't talk your nonsense to me, Mr. James! I used to give nine shillings a brace for partridges." Mr. James pressed for the name of one of the tradesmen; to which the fair plaintiff replied that she could have given the names of twenty. She was told one would do; whereupon she burst out with "Oh, how can I recollect their names now?" and pleaded that her brain had been turned since her imprisonment. She then indulged in criticisms on Mr. Rosenthal, whom she described as "not a man at all." "He is a pine-apple, I suppose," suggested Mr. James. The lady also revealed a tender declaration made, after his return from Germany, by the enamoured wine-merchant, who, calling at the house of his divinity, said that he would not leave the place; that he was "ironed" to the spot (Mr. James observed that he ought to have added—"and mangled too"); and that he loved no other woman than the fair Pew. "In one respect," remarked Mr. James, "Mr. Rosenthal is fortunate: he is a single man, and there will be no account to settle with Mrs. Rosenthal when he gets home."

A suggestion was made by the Chief Baron that the matter had better be compromised; to which Mr. James was willing to assent, but the counsel for Mrs. Pew would not agree. Ultimately the jury retired, but could not come to a decision, eleven being in favour of a verdict with forty shillings damages, while the twelfth stood out for granting no more than one farthing. At length, however, he gave way, and a verdict for Mrs. Pew, with forty shillings damages, was returned.

POISON ON "THE TURF."

An inquest, extending over three days, has been held at Rugeley, and has revealed a frightful story of systematic poisoning. The inquiry had reference to the death of Mr. John Parsons Cook, and it has terminated in the arrest of Mr. Palmer, a medical man, who had attended the deceased.

Mr. Cook was a gentleman of independent property, of about eight-and-twenty years of age, and largely interested in horse-racing transactions. Mr. Palmer was a friend of his, and they frequently joined in bets. Both attended the Shrewsbury races about the middle of last November; and on Tuesday, the 13th, a horse called Polestar, belonging to Mr. Cook, ran and won. Mr. Cook was excited at this, but not so as to require medical treatment. He and some friends, after the result, drove down from the race-course to the Raven Hotel, where they dined; and Mr. Palmer was of the party. After dinner, while they were all in Mr. Cook's sitting-room, Mr. Fisher, a friend of Mr. Cook's, entered the room, and sat down, though to some extent deterred by an expression on the face of Mr. Palmer, which seemed to indicate dissatisfaction at his presence. However, he remained. The party were drinking grog. Mr. Cook's glass was full, and he said to Mr. Palmer, "Palmer, you'll have some more grog?" Mr. Palmer replied,

"No, I will not have any more until you have drunk yours;" and Mr. Cook, rejoining, "Oh, I will drink mine," took up the glass, and drank off the contents. Immediately after, he exclaimed, "There is something in it—it burns my throat awfully!" Mr. Palmer rose from his seat, went across the room, took hold of the glass, in which a teaspoonful of the liquid was left, drank it, and observed, "There is nothing in it." He then pushed the glass over to Mr. Fisher, asking, "Do you think there is anything in it?" Mr. Cook left the room; returned in about ten minutes; called Mr. Fisher aside, and went with him into that gentleman's sitting-room. Here he said that he had been dreadfully sick, and that he believed Mr. Palmer had "dosed" him, for that the stuff had burned his throat. He gave Mr. Fisher his money (amounting to between seven and eight hundred pounds) to take care of, adding that he believed he had been "dosed" for the sake of the amount. Again he was seized with sickness, and was obliged to send for a medical man. The next morning he was better, and he told Mr. Fisher that he had taxed Mr. Palmer with putting something into his brandy-and-water, and that Mr. Palmer denied it; to which Mr. Cook added, speaking to Mr. Fisher, "I suppose he did not do it." Mr. Fisher then returned Mr. Cook his money.

On the morning of Thursday, November 15th, Mr. Cook, who seemed to be then recovered, was in the sitting-room of another friend staying at the Raven Hotel, a Mr. Herring; and, in answer to a question from that gentleman about the brandy-and-water, replied, "Oh, that villain did me!" "You mean Palmer?" interrogated Mr. Herring. "Yes," replied Mr. Cook. Mr. Herring remarked, "It is a very curious thing to accuse a gentleman of such an act. What could be his motive?" Mr. Cook, in a sorrowful tone, replied, "You don't know all;" and then turned the conversation to racing matters in general. But Mr. Herring interrupted him, exclaiming, "Good God! if you suspect this man of such a thing, how can you go back and breakfast with him?" Mr. Cook again replied, but in an absent manner, "Ah, you don't know all;" and left the room. On the Wednesday morning following the afternoon when Mr. Cook vomited from the effects of the brandy-and-water, Mr. Herring had been very ill from diarrhoea and pains in the stomach; and other persons in the town, but all strangers and connected with the turf, had been similarly affected.

Mr. Herring returned to London; and, on the following Monday, he saw Mr. Palmer at 8, Beaufort-buildings, Strand, in compliance with a letter which he received the same morning from him. In answer to an inquiry about Mr. Cook, Mr. Palmer said, "Oh, he is all right; the physician has given him some calomel, and recommended him not to go out;" and he added, producing a document, "What I want to see you about is settling his account." Mr. Herring rose slightly to take the document, when Mr. Palmer said, "You had better take it down," handing over some paper, pens, and ink. "What I have here," he added, "will be a check against you." It appears that from various persons Mr. Herring was to receive sums amounting to about £1,000, out of which he was to pay himself £200 on account of an overdue bill of exchange, £450 to a Mr. Pratt, and £350 to a Mr. Padwick; but, only receiving £890, he did not pay Mr. Padwick's account, but retained in his hands the balance of £240. Having advised Mr. Cook, who was then with Mr. Palmer, of this, he received a telegraphic message from Rugeley, asking him to furnish the £110 deficient to make up Padwick's account, which, however, he refused to do. Mr. Herring suspected that the £350 to Padwick was not Mr. Cook's bet, but Mr. Palmer's; and on the inquest various witnesses were examined to prove that the telegraphic message to Mr. Herring was not sent by Mr. Cook, but by Mr. Palmer. The original copy of the message was asked for; but it appeared that Mr. Palmer had sent it two or three days before, and it had been given up.

Notwithstanding that, on Monday, the 19th of November, Mr. Palmer had told Mr. Herring that Mr. Cook was going on well, he had, on Saturday, the 17th, sent for Mr. William Bamford, surgeon, of Rugeley, to attend on him; and that gentleman twice on Saturday prescribed and made up medicines, which Mr. Palmer took away with him, previous to which he had himself administered some pills. Mr. Cook was very sick, and was violently purged. On Sunday, Mr. Palmer sent for Mr. Jones, a surgeon, living at Lutterworth, Leicestershire, and a friend of Mr. Cook, saying that Mr. Cook had been taken ill at Shrewsbury, and that he "thought it advisable for Mr. Jones to come and see him as soon as possible." Mr. Jones went, arriving on Tuesday, the 20th, and was told by Mr. Palmer that the patient had had a violent bilious and diarrhoea attack; but the symptoms did not confirm this. Mr. Bamford thought matters were going on favourably; and the three medical men left the sick room to arrange what should be given during the night. Mr. Palmer and Mr. Bamford agreed that the morphia pills should be repeated, the former

suggesting that Mr. Cook should not know what the pills contained, as he strongly objected to them on the previous night, saying that they made him ill. Mr. Palmer, having made the pills, gave them to Mr. Cook, who protested against them, and, immediately after swallowing them, vomited. Mr. Jones and Mr. Palmer searched for the pills, and could not find them. At Mr. Cook's request, Mr. Jones slept with him; but, shortly after the medical man got into bed, the patient exclaimed, "Doctor, get up; I am going to be ill. Ring the bell for Mr. Palmer." He called to the chambermaid, "Fetch Mr. Palmer directly." Mr. Palmer came in about two minutes, saying he had never dressed so quickly in his life before, and gave Mr. Cook two pills, on taking which the patient, uttering loud screams, threw himself back on the bed, in very strong convulsions. He then requested to be raised up, saying, "I shall be suffocated." The medical men endeavoured to raise him, but he was so stiffened out with spasms that they could not. He cried, "Turn me over!" and Mr. Jones turned him on his right side. The action of the heart then gradually ceased, and he expired. The body, after death, rested on the heels and head, the intermediate parts being drawn inwards like a bow.

On the previous night, a similar scene, with the exception of the fatal termination, had taken place. The chambermaid was roused, and ordered to go for Mr. Palmer. Having sent for that gentleman, who was stopping over the way, she returned to the room, and found Mr. Cook looking very wild with his eyes, screaming, and rolling his head about convulsively. He beat about the bed with his arms, which subsequently became perfectly straight, and so did his legs; and he observed that his illness was in consequence of some pills he had taken. To Mr. Palmer (who quickly arrived) he observed, "Oh, doctor, I shall die!" Mr. Palmer replied, "Oh, no, my lad, you won't!" and, leaving the room, fetched two pills and some mixture of a dark, thick kind, smelling like opium. These the patient took, and immediately vomited the potion, but the pills could not be found.

After the death of Mr. Cook, the chambermaid found Mr. Palmer (in the absence of Mr. Jones) feeling in the pockets of the dead man's coat, and looking under the pillow. He afterwards said to Mr. Jones, "You, as his nearest friend, had better search his pockets, and take possession of what there may be in them." Mr. Jones searched, and only found five guineas in money. A betting-book which Mr. Cook had had with him was missed; but Mr. Palmer said that all the bets were void, and that the book was of no use to any one. The book has not since been found.

Several medical witnesses were brought forward at the inquest, and, speaking from an examination of the body, were unable to assign the cause of death. Dr. Taylor, of the College of Physicians, who made a post-mortem investigation of the stomach, liver, &c., said he came to the following conclusions:—"1. That antimony, derived from some antimonial preparation taken during life, was present in the body of the deceased. 2. That it had been absorbed and carried into the blood, and deposited in the various parts in which it was found. 3. That the quantities found were small, and might be the residue of a large dose, or of various smaller doses taken some hours or days before death. 4. That the quantity actually taken by the deceased cannot be inferred from the small quantities found in the body, or from the appearances of the stomach and intestines. 5. The antimony, under the form of tartaric emetic, may produce nausea, violent vomitings, purging, and other symptoms and irritation of the stomach and bowels. There was also another symptom produced by tartaric emetic, arsenic, or mercury, viz., restriction of the throat or a sense of choking. 6. That the viscera of the deceased, so far as they were examined by us, presented no appearance whatever to account for death from natural causes. 7. And lastly, that tartaric emetic may be used as a safe and innocent medicine, or as a poison, according to circumstances. We have no evidence before us to enable us to form a judgment as to the circumstances under which it was taken by or administered to the deceased, or to enable us to say in this case whether it was or was not the cause of death; therefore, the result is that we found antimony in the body, which must have been taken while living, but there were no causes of death. Dr. Rees, who made the analysis with me, fully concurs in these conclusions. Dr. Rees is assistant physician to Guy's Hospital. Convulsions would precede death by antimony if the doses were large." Replying to questions by the coroner, Dr. Taylor said that he believed death was caused by tetanus, and that the pills administered on Monday and Tuesday nights contained strychnine—a poison so soon absorbed into the blood that its presence cannot be detected. In corroboration of this opinion, the assistant to a chemist at Rugeley stated that, on the 20th of November, he sold six grains of strychnine to Mr. Palmer, together with two drachms of prussic acid, and two of Batley's solution of opium. The coroner sent a

note to Mr. Palmer, requesting his attendance; but an answer was returned that he was ill in bed.

The jury brought in a verdict of Wilful Murder against Mr. Palmer, and a warrant was made out, committing him to the county gaol.

Mr. Bamford, in the course of his examination, said:—"I have attended other patients for Mr. Palmer. I attended Mrs. Palmer some days before her decease; also two children and a gentleman from London, who was on a visit at Mr. Palmer's house, and who did not live many hours after I was called in. The whole of those patients died."

The annexed is from the *Globe*:—"We understand that circumstances have transpired tending to establish other charges against William Palmer, the surgeon, who has been committed to Stafford Gaol on a charge of poisoning Mr. Cook. It is said that Palmer insured his wife's life for £13,000. She died shortly afterwards, and, upon the usual probate being produced, the money was duly paid by the office. He then induced his brother, Walter Palmer, to insure his life for a similar sum, and afterwards obtained the transfer of it on an alleged debt of £400, which William Palmer stated was due to him by his brother. Palmer made every endeavour to further insure this life; but, in consequence of an anonymous letter from Stafford, it was declined. The brother has since died, and the usual demand was made for the money. The large amount, and the previous death of Palmer's wife, having excited the suspicion of the numerous insurance offices concerned, they deemed it prudent to place the matter in Inspector Field's (late of the detective police) Private Inquiry-office. Mr. Field, with his assistant, Mr. Simpson, proceeded at once to Stafford and the Isle of Man, and, after the most searching investigation, extending over a period of upwards of six weeks, reported to the various insurance offices certain startling revelations, which induced the offices to form a 'defence fund,' for the purpose of mutual resistance to these attempts. Mr. Field, having gathered certain information that Palmer had endeavoured to effect an insurance for £25,000 upon the life of 'a gentleman,' whom Palmer reported to live 'on his estate' near a village in Staffordshire, proceeded there, and found that other persons in high position had conspired with Palmer falsely to represent the standing in life of the individual, who was, in fact, no other person than Palmer's occasional groom, renting a bedroom at two shillings a week."

OUR CIVILISATION.

JAMES WAREHAM has been found guilty at York of the manslaughter of his brother, between whom and himself a bad feeling had for some time subsisted. He was sentenced to transportation for life.—A penalty of transportation for twenty years has been awarded to Patrick Connolly for the manslaughter of Ambrose Dunley. The crime arose out of a drunken quarrel at a public-house in Liverpool.—Edward Lewis and John Hayward have been sentenced to fifteen years' transportation for a murderous assault on Mr. William Burton, a farmer, on whose preserves he found them one night engaged in setting nets.—George Drury, a young man, charged with forging and uttering a banker's cheque, has been found guilty, at the Hereford Assizes, and condemned to four years' penal servitude.

BUSINESS-LIKE BURGULARS.—William Renton and John Clarke were found guilty at York of a burglary in the house of Mr. John Haines, at Knowstrop, near Leeds. Mr. Haines was in bed when the two men entered the room, and one, threatening him with a bludgeon, advised him to "be steady." Being asked what he wanted, he replied, "Your money—where is it?" Mr. Haines said, "In my trousers pocket. If you reach them to me, I'll give it to you." The trousers accordingly were handed over and the money (about ten or twelve shillings) was counted out. Renton then said, "Now, no noise." To which Mr. Haines replied, "Not a word; depart in peace." The men then withdrew backwards in order that they might see whether Mr. Haines gave any alarm or not; but, as soon as they were gone, he roused some of the other inmates of the house. The prisoners (against whom a previous committal was proved) were sentenced to transportation for life.

A CLERICAL DESPOT.—The Rev. T. Wells, rector of Portsmouth, has disgusted his parishioners by a most disgraceful act of spite and tyranny. Mr. Lewis Oldrieve, jun., had a child to be christened a few months ago, and, instead of taking it to the Established Church, he had the ceremony performed at the Wesleyan chapel at Salcombe. The child died last week, and the parents proposed to have it buried in the church-yard of Mr. Wells's church. The mourners were obliged to wait upwards of half an hour for the arrival of the clergyman, and then his reverence was sought for, and found in the rectory. Another half-hour passed, and Mr. Wells who had by that time arrived, having been told, in answer to an inquiry, that the child was christened at the Wesleyan chapel, rejoined, "I shall not bury it." The child's grandfather, who had been churchwarden

for many years, said to the clergyman, "If you will not bury the child, I will," upon which Mr. Wells exclaimed, in an excited tone, "If you do, I will have it removed; for there it shall not remain." Mr. Oldrieve, sen., replied that, if he attempted to remove the body, he would take away Mr. Wells's gown. Ultimately, he commanded the undertaker to lower the body, and pronounced the words—"Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust,"—and, looking at the clergyman, added, "And that is what you and I must soon come to." On the mourners retiring, the clergyman told the sexton to cease filling in the grave; but the elder Mr. Oldrieve again interfered, and caused the work to be finished. Mr. Wells subsequently performed the burial service in the presence of his clerk.—If these allegations be not capable of denial, the conduct of Mr. Wells should undoubtedly lead to the loss of his gown.

THE HEREFORD MURDER.—The eight "navvies" charged with the murder of Priscilla Morgan, a woman of bad character, at Hereford, on the 30th of last September, under circumstances detailed at the time in these columns, have been acquitted at the Hereford Assizes. Much satisfaction at the result was expressed in court.

FORGERY BY A BIRMINGHAM TRADESMAN.—Thomas Henry Taylor, an upholsterer and cabinet-maker at Birmingham, was charged at the police-office with uttering a forged bill, purporting to be accepted by Mr. Simpson Hanbury, of the Iron and Copper Tube Company, Smethwick. Upon the fraud being discovered, Mr. Taylor was taxed with its commission; and he acknowledged his guilt, offering to make an equal division of his property among his creditors, and placing all he possessed under the Court of Bankruptcy. He was committed for trial.

A VICTIM TO JUDICIAL HASTE.—Great sympathy is being excited in Doncaster, Sheffield, and Leeds for Mr. John Jackson, a pawnbroker, who was tried and convicted in a very summary manner, at the last West Riding sessions, held at Sheffield, and sentenced by the chairman, Mr. Wilson Overend, to twelve months' imprisonment, with hard labour, in the House of Correction, at Wakefield, on a charge of having feloniously received a diamond ring, knowing it to have been stolen. It appears that Mr. Jackson voluntarily attended the sessions, in company with his wife, who was summoned as a witness; that, while there, an indictment was found against him, and he was arrested, bail being refused; that he was put upon his trial next day, a convicted thief being the principal witness against him; that the decision of the jury was accelerated by an intimation from the chairman that they would be locked up all night if they did not agree to a verdict within a given time; and that the sentence was passed by the chairman without consulting his brother magistrates, and was received with unequivocal murmurs of disapprobation in a crowded court. Meetings reprobating this act of oppression have been held at Sheffield and Leeds, and the local journals have commented with great indignation on the conduct of the chairman.

ANOTHER FEMALE IMPOSTOR.—A rival to Alice Grey has turned up at Canterbury. She has appeared under various names—Mary Eliza Smith, Matilda Tremaine, or Mary Eliza Chippendale. She appears to be about thirty years of age. She is well versed in the arts of deception, possessing perfect command of her countenance, and rarely betraying the slightest emotion. Her plan is to obtain, by some tale of distress, a footing in a family for a time, where she secures food and lodging during her stay, and decamps on being detected, but seldom without carrying off some article of easy conveyance. In this way it is believed she has been living for the last two or three years in different parts of England. At one time she represented herself as coming from Liverpool, and being the daughter or niece of a large navy agent there; that, although not quite convinced, she was leaving the Protestant religion, but was desirous of solving her remaining doubts. At another time she stated that her father was a medical man residing in the vicinity of Dover, a member of the Baptist chapel there; that he wanted her to join that denomination, to which she was opposed, but that she rather wished to turn Roman Catholic, and was then in search of a convent, having succeeded in getting out of her father's house at night, though in doing so she unfortunately fell into the waterbutt. In the early part of last year, she obtained access to a cottage at Upper Harbledown, about three miles from Canterbury, and remained there some time, her first introduction being an appeal to the cottagers for shelter and protection, as a man had rudely assaulted her. She also visited the Catholic priest of the district, from whom she obtained aid, and a note for Dr. Grant, of London. Her last statement, and the one upon which she has been apprehended, is of an entirely different character. She is now an heiress in search of her grandmother. In this character she called on a small shopkeeper, named Epps, residing at Ospringe, near Faversham, at whose expense she was conveyed to Canterbury, where she was recognised by a police superintendent as an old customer,

and was accordingly taken before a magistrate, by whom she was remanded for a week.

FRAUD BY A POLICE SUPERINTENDENT.—Mr. James Buglass, the late superintendent of police at South Shields, is at present in custody charged with defrauding the Watch Committee of the corporation. He had been instructed to receive the fines and fees due to the Town Council from persons fined under the by-laws, and many of these sums to a very large amount, he had misappropriated.

MR. NASH AND LORD ERNEST VANE TEMPEST.—Mr. Nash has brought an action against Lord Ernest Vane Tempest, arising out of the celebrated *fracas* on the 21st of last September. The action was for trespass in breaking and entering the Windsor Theatre. Mr. James (who was for the plaintiff) admitted in his opening statement that Mr. Nash had allowed Lord Ernest Vane to go behind the scenes for the purpose of "paying his addresses" to one of the actresses; and Mr. Nash, in his cross-examination, made some awkward confessions. He said:—"Mr. Webber one night threatened to complain to the magistrates of the way in which I conducted my theatre. I took the usual quantity of refreshment. I was not drunk. I was three nights incapacitated by drink from going on the stage. I don't remember my mother getting hold of the drink I sent for, and throwing it away. She was my treasurer, and took the money at the door. My father is an attorney, and brings this action. My mother was my check-taker, knowing that I had a parcel of thieves about me. Some of my performers were thieves. My mother may have thrown away my drink one night. I did not threaten to pull her out of the box where she was sitting, in consequence." Miss Emily Stewart, the young lady into whose dressing-room his Lordship intruded, gave the following additional particulars of the scene:—"Only the dresser and myself were in the room. I remonstrated with his Lordship, and begged him to leave the room. He said he would, only on one condition—that was, that I would go to supper with him at the barracks. I said, 'Not on any condition.' I then left the room, and went to Mr. Rogerson, the stage manager. Mr. Rogerson came, and begged him to leave the room. He then said he would if I would promise him on my soul to go to supper with him. I said, 'On no account.' He then refused to leave the dressing-room." The Attorney-General, in defence, said that the damages inflicted were confined to the breaking open of the door; pointed to the fact that the gas was not, as originally stated, put out; and contended that there had been great exaggeration. The jury gave a verdict in favour of Mr. Nash damages, £25.

MARRYING BOTH BROTHERS.—A private in the 95th has been tried at Winchester for making a false statement with respect to the name of a woman whom he had married. The wedding had taken place at Carisbrook, and it was then stated that the woman was a spinster named Lucy Bowmer; but it turned out that she was the wife of the prisoner's brother. Francis Hudson, the man now charged with the offence, had been staying with his brother in Derbyshire, and had concluded his visit by running away with the brother's wife. The wife, who admitted the fact of bigamy, was examined, and said her first husband used her so ill that she was obliged to leave him. Upon the clergyman being asked to produce the certificate, he said, "In point of fact, we don't like these certificates, and therefore we always burn them." The Judge, in summing up, observed that he thought no mischief had been done to anyone, but that there must be an example to prevent other people doing likewise—that is to say, doing no mischief. The man was, therefore, sentenced to six months' imprisonment; and the woman to a similar punishment, for the bigamy.

A FALSE CHARACTER.—A middle aged man, named John Truncheon, has been fined £20 (with three months' imprisonment in default) for obtaining a situation as groom by means of a false character. He threw himself on the mercy of the magistrate, and it did not appear that he had behaved dishonestly after obtaining the situation.

A FALSE TURNKEY.—James Moss, a convicted felon, has been committed to trial, charged with obtaining a quantity of wearing apparel from Caroline Scoons, by representing himself as a turnkey of the prison in which Mrs. Scoons's husband was then lying, and stating that they were wanted for the man. Moss was also committed on a charge of obtaining scarfs, gloves, &c., from Messrs. Nicholl, in the name of the Hon. Spencer Lyttelton.

JUVENILE DEPRAVITY.—A gentleman was recently walking near the High-street, Islington, when a girl, about twelve years old, accosted him, saying, "Sir, do you want a sweetheart?" The gentleman pushed her aside, and some woman urged the girl to pelt him with stones, which she did. A powerful Irishman, named Brisnahan, then appeared, and struck and kicked the offending pedestrian until he was rescued by the police. Brisnahan was sentenced by the Clerkenwell magistrate to two months' imprisonment. The police gave a very bad account of the locality.

DARING BURGLARY AT PORTSMOUTH.—The shop of Messrs. Emanuel, jewellers and goldsmiths, of Portsmouth, has been broken open, and robbed of a considerable amount of valuable property, apparently under the eye of the police. The premises of Messrs. Emanuel are fronting the harbour, and close to the dockyard-gate, where a strong police force is always on duty. Last Sunday morning, between one and two o'clock, about an hour after the family had gone to bed, Mr. Ezekiel Emanuel was awakened by a noise in the lower part of his house. He got up and looked out; but, as he perceived from the window of his room that there were lights in the opposite houses, he imagined that the noise he heard proceeded from one of them, and therefore returned to bed. At the expiration of half an hour, he was again aroused, and again got up and looked down upon a glass cupola which lighted the sitting room adjoining the shop; but, not seeing any light there, or anything to cause suspicion, he still supposed the noise to be the moving of the neighbours about their houses, and once more went to bed. The thieves were evidently at work during this period. About half-past seven, the maid servant went down to the sitting room, on entering which, she was astonished to find several house-breakers' tools lying on the floor, and the doors communicating with the shop partly open. Having informed her master of this circumstance, he went into the shop, and found that it had been entered, and a large quantity of small jewellery, gold chains, rings, &c., to the amount, it is supposed, of at least one thousand pounds, had been stolen. An inspection of the premises was subsequently made by the Mayor of Portsmouth and the police; and it was then discovered that the burglars had effected their entry of Messrs. Emanuel's house by a most elaborate process, having in the first place broken into a wine and spirit merchant's shop, situated immediately in the rear of the goldsmith's. They then, by means of a ladder, climbed on to the roof of the store; in this they broke a hole, and then got out on to the roof of Mr. Emanuel's workshop, from which they removed a few tiles, and descending through the ceiling into the workshop, from which they did not take anything, they next crossed the yard which separates it from the main dwelling, and finally entered the shop through the kitchen. Considering the extreme publicity of the neighbourhood, the number of people constantly on the spot, and other surrounding circumstances, it is wonderful how so extensive a robbery could have been committed with success. The police are taking active measures to trace out the thieves.

ALICE GRAY.—This woman was brought before the Wolverhampton magistrates on Wednesday, and committed for trial. She was jocose and eccentric as usual. She assured the chairman that if he was prepossessed with her looks as she was with his, he would never send her to trial. A letter from Mrs. Morris having been read, stating that Mr. Morris (her husband, and one of the witnesses) was precluded from attending by indisposition, Alice observed, "Perhaps he is in love;" adding afterwards, "I wish he had never come to the railway station—that's one thing." The magistrates refused to take bail; upon which Alice said—"It is a pity to be on the sea side of want."

RAILWAY ROBBERIES.—Several robberies at different railway stations have been recently committed; and various persons are now in custody on charges of complicity.

THE GREAT CITY FRAUDS.—Daniel Mitchell Davidson, and Cosmo William Gordon, were on Wednesday placed at the bar of the Central Criminal Court, on a charge of embezzling a portion of their estates, to the value of £1,000, with intent to defraud their creditors, and of secreting money to the amount of £2,600, with the same design. They were acquitted upon a technical ground, the acts imputed having been committed out of this country. They have since been charged with fraudulently obtaining goods after their bankruptcy, and being found guilty yesterday, they were sentenced to two years' imprisonment in the House of Correction.

THE SOUTHAMPTON MURDER.—Abraham Baker has been tried at Winchester for the murder, by shooting, of Naomi Kingwell, a girl to whom he had been engaged to be married, but who had broken off the match. The act having been witnessed by several persons, the only defence possible was that of insanity, which was accordingly advanced; but the only thing suggestive of mental disturbance was a confession made by the prisoner, in which, in a very incoherent way, he said his mind had been affected by the girl's inconstancy. Baker was found guilty, and was sentenced to death. He had dropped senseless during the speech of his counsel; and at the close of the trial he was carried out of court in a helpless state. Both judge and jury were visibly affected. Baker was a Methodist, and appears to have been really attached to the girl.

THE BURNOPFIELD MURDER.—The inquest on the body of Mr. Robert Stirling has already extended over several weeks, and is not yet concluded. Strong suspicion attaches to a man named Cayne, who is now

in custody. A glass button, corresponding with those worn by this man, and fitting a place where one is wanting, has been accidentally found at the scene of the murder; and Cayne, together with another man (also in custody), was observed, about the time of the tragedy, near the spot.

MANIN AND THE FRENCH PRESS.

[The illustrious Daniel Manin has recently addressed the following letter to the principal journals of Paris, without distinction of party. It has been inserted in the *Presse* and the *Siecle*, and, in the former of those journals, it has been very strikingly and significantly commented upon in an article by M. Alphonse Peyrat. We shall take an early occasion to treat it as a text for considerations on the hopes and prospects of Italy.]

"Paris, December 10, 1855.

"Sir,—The two essential conditions of a complete national life are independence and unification.* I think it superfluous to demonstrate a proposition so evident to every sincere man. Only consider what would become of the French nationality if France ceased to be independent and one.

"The Italians aspire to conquer the enjoyment of a complete national life. Therefore they must desire—therefore they do desire—the independence and unification of Italy. But a pernicious prejudice practically interrupts their efforts, a phantom blocks the way, adding to the numerous real difficulties, imaginary ones, and chilling the ardour necessary to the success of great enterprises. It is pretty generally believed in Italy, that France and England are, and always will be, hostile to the unification of Italy by reason of paltry considerations of rivalry and envy. I feel certain this is an error. In their great and legitimate pride, France and England, those leaders of European civilisation, must be and are inaccessible to any feeling of envy or of rivalry towards any other nationality whatsoever, and in their manly intelligence they must understand—and do understand—that their greatness and their prosperity can only gain by the prosperity and the greatness of their neighbours.

"My own conviction on that point is fully made up; but it would be powerless to destroy the error I have noted, if it were left unsupported by the organs of public opinion in England and in France.

"Upon the appearance, last September, of my letter, addressed to the editor of the *Siecle*, in which I clearly defined the formula of the national aspiration of Italy in two inseparable terms, *Independence and Unification*, the English journals of all shades of opinion, from the *Times* to the *Leader*, declared themselves favourable to that formula, and accepted with equal sympathy the term of *unification* and that of *independence*.

"An analogous declaration on the part of the French periodical press would be an immense service rendered to the cause of Italy.

"The question I submit is this:—Whether, if, in an early or remote future, by the use of the means which Providence may put within our reach, we should succeed in accomplishing our object: if Italy, ceasing to be a simple geographical denomination, should become a political individuality, powerful and prosperous, could such a result be dangerous, or hurtful, or simply disagreeable to France? I think that, putting aside all discussion on the probability of the hypothesis, an intelligent and skilful writer might, without inconvenience, treat this question from a general abstract, and elevated point of view, having regard to the permanent political and economical interests of France, superior to, and independent of, any transitory interest, and of all preoccupations of party, of coterie, or of persons.

"The evidence of sympathy which, on many occasions, you have given to my unhappy country, bids me hope, Sir, that you will kindly answer to my appeal. I offer you my acknowledgments in advance, and pray you, at the same time, to accept the assurance of my distinguished consideration.

"MANIN."

IMPERIAL JUSTICE.

[The following communication, signed "Britannicus," appears in the *Daily News*:—]

At the period of the attempt of Bellemare (who, it will be remembered, fired a pistol at one of the imperial carriages near the entrance of the Opera Comique, and was, in consequence, pronounced mad, and confined in the Hospital of Bicetre), the Government, fearing that his attempt was the result of a conspiracy, ordered the arrest of a great number of young men, apprentices, for the most part, to the youth of the public schools. Among these was Mr. Rane, the eldest son of a gentleman of respectability and position; his father, a magistrate, having formerly been *juge de paix* of the district of Poitiers. No proof whatever was discovered against this

* I say *unification*, and not *union* or *unity*, because the word *unity* would appear to exclude the federative form, and the word *union* would appear to exclude the unitary form.

young man, who was at that time fully occupied with his literary labours. Nevertheless, despite the total absence of proof, and despite the steps taken by his family, Mr. Rane was detained in prison at the depot of the Prefecture de Police.

Several months had thus elapsed without the prisoner having been able to procure either a trial or his liberty, when, some few days since, a commissary of police called on him in prison, and imparted to him a decision which the Council of Ministers had come to respecting him, in virtue of which Mr. Rane was—not to receive his liberty, but—to be transported to the penal settlement of Cayenne.

Mr. Rane, senior, who was then at a distance of five hundred miles from Paris, was informed by the telegraph of the decision arrived at with respect to his son. He returned at once to Paris, and applied to one of the Ministers to obtain a repeal of the sentence; but finding their decision irrevocable, he begged that his son might be transported, not to Cayenne—a distant settlement with a deadly climate—but to Algeria, a nearer and more healthy colony. The Minister refused, alleging that "Africa, like France, was infected with secret societies, and that the Government had left off transporting thither." The father thereupon beseechingly implored that his son might not be transported, but merely banished to America. The Minister replied that banishment to America would be granted to Mr. Rane, jun., in commutation of his sentence, if he would consent to write and sign a declaration renouncing his republican opinions.

The father transmitted these conditions to his son, who nobly refused to give this declaration of apostasy. In consequence, the order is about to be executed, and Mr. Rane, a young man twenty-four years of age, is to be transported to Guiana. The ship which conveys him is to leave the port of Toulon between the 15th and 20th instant. I am informed that several other persons, arrested at the same period, are about to be similarly transported, without trial, to Cayenne.

THE TURKS AND THE ALLIES.

[We have received from a private correspondent at Pera some details of interest with reference to the position of the Allies in Constantinople. After mentioning that the Turkish authorities place every obstacle in the way of the English commissariat officer at Schumlr, in providing for the irregular cavalry stationed there, our informant proceeds:]

The letter of the *Times* correspondent at Constantinople, which appeared in that publication of the 23rd ult., is, I am sorry to say, but too true of this place. It is not safe for foreigners to go out after dark, unless in parties and well armed. The streets are in a fearfully dirty, dark, and unpaved state.

The ill-feeling existing between the Turks and the French is not likely to be allayed but augmented if such conduct as I witnessed on the part of two French soldiers (privates) be permitted. I was confined to the house during the whole of the morning by a heavy fall of rain, which ceased about one p.m. About two p.m. I sallied out, passing down Pera street towards Galata.

In the main street which runs parallel to the Bosphorus, and leading to the Sultan's new palace, my attention was attracted by some one shouting "*Bono Anglaise! Turk no bono!*" This proceeded from two French soldiers, rather the worse for drink, who were shaking hands with some English sailors standing in the street. The two soldiers then marched on, shouting "*Turk no bono!*" thrusting every Turk they met into the middle of the street, and striking some with a large stick. I attempted to remonstrate with them, but got no reply but "*Turk no bono! English bono!*" In a minute or two two French officers came up, who stopped these disgraceful proceedings immediately.

News from the Crimea will in all probability be delayed for some time to come, as there is a fault in the cable between Varna and the Crimea.

What that fault is we are not yet able to ascertain, fears are entertained that it is a break in the cable; if so, it may be necessary to send to England for a new one, as it will be almost impossible to fish it up again.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

A SWEDISH ALLIANCE.

Stockholm, Dec. 18.

THE King of Sweden has ratified a treaty with England and France.

The two Allied Powers guarantee the territorial integrity of Sweden, and the latter engages not to alienate any part of its territory to Russia.

The high contracting parties engage to communicate, mutually and reciprocally, all propositions coming from Russia.

PEACE PROSPECTS.—A cloud of ministerial mystery yet hangs about the question of peace. A despatch from Vienna, of December 16th, says:—"Count Esterhazy leaves to-day for St. Petersburg. It is understood that he is bearer of most important despatches containing the propositions for a pacifica-

tion, as finally resolved on." The *Morning Post* vouches for the authenticity of this, and *Le Nord* with great confidence discredits it. The *Times* Paris correspondence of Monday contains the annexed:—"The difference which existed between the French and English Governments relative to the conditions on which they would make peace with Russia are terminated, and the propositions which Count Valentin Esterhazy will have to communicate to M. de Nesselrode are such as are considered acceptable by England and France. I cannot state in a positive manner what was the real ground of difference; whether, as some say, it referred to a 'material guarantee' of a permanent character, or to a war indemnity; but it is not doubtful that for some time the English Cabinet, or a portion of it, was unwilling to accept a settlement on the terms which this Government deemed sufficient. It is, however, certain that the difference, such as it was, has now disappeared. It is believed at Vienna and elsewhere that France is more desirous of peace than England, and this desire, perhaps too clearly and too often manifested, may add to the obstinacy of Russia, and produce its effect on Austria." A despatch from Berlin, of December 16th, is as follows:—"It is currently reported that, about the 15th of November last, Prussia addressed a despatch to St. Petersburg, with an earnest request to the Russian Government to accept the interpretation given by the Allies to the third point of guarantee. Russia has not yet replied."

From a debtor and creditor account of the Bank of France, made up to Thursday week, it appears that the metallic reserve has decreased during the past month 18,370,334*fr.* in Paris, and increased 25,721,801*fr.* in the branch banks. The discount accommodation has decreased in Paris 23,202,716*fr.*, and in the departments 14,985,699*fr.* The advances on public securities have decreased in Paris 14,985,699*fr.*, and in the departments 2,045,700*fr.* The notes in circulation have decreased 15,671,700*fr.* in Paris, and 5,792,800*fr.* in the departments. The Treasury account current has increased 1,277,509*fr.*, and those of private persons have declined 87,577,857*fr.* in Paris, and 4,199,247*fr.* in the departments.

With the new year (says the *Times* Prussian correspondent) Berlin will possess two new establishments in full and beneficial activity, for which it is indebted, in the one instance to English capital and talent, and the other to English example. The Berlin Waterworks, which have just been built, with exclusively English capital, by Sir Charles Fox and Mr. Crampton (the latter being the actual designer and engineer), are in process of being opened. For the present only a few of the more prominent buildings, such as *Ministerien* (public offices), the Opera-house, and various hospitals, are being supplied with water, but with the turn of the year the numerous parties who have already made application will be supplied, under the auspices of a company which I hear has been formed in London for the purpose of keeping Berlin supplied with that very necessary article, water. The other establishment is one for bathing, washing, and ironing, the same as we have in London, Liverpool, and elsewhere.

The *Piemonte* gives the following account of the state of the prisons in the Papal dominions:—

In 1850 there were imprisoned	10,436
In 1851	11,279
In 1852	11,767
In 1853	12,035
In 1854	13,006

Showing an augmentation of 2,570—nearly one-fourth in five years. On the 31st of last August, the same authority states there were 633 persons imprisoned in Fort Urbano, whom it divides under the following heads:—

Condemned by the <i>Sacra Consulta</i>	21
Condemned by the ordinary tribunals	337
Condemned by the military tribunals	191
Condemned by the diocesan tribunals	7
Awaiting judgment	2
In transit	1
Detained as a measure of precaution	124

Boulogne has been the scene of a very extensive fire, by which the house of Mr. Barnard, of that port, the well-known custom-house and general agent, has been entirely destroyed. A vast amount of valuable property has perished, including the papers and account-books of the agency of the South-Eastern Company; but the house and its contents are insured. The inmates escaped with difficulty.

A fire has taken place in the Palais des Beaux Arts, and the fresco-painting by M. Delaroche, representing the history of painting, sculpture, and architecture, down to the reign of Louis XIV., has been damaged.

In Copenhagen (says the *Times* Berlin correspondent) a story is afloat, affording ample and piquant opportunities for those who know some little of Russian ways to indulge in very unfavourable suspicions of the Russian diplomatists there. It is related that as General Carobert one evening returned somewhat earlier than usual to his apartments in the Hotel d'Angleterre, he found a strange man standing at his *seigneurie*, which had been broken open, or opened

with a false key, and so busily occupied in examining his papers that he did not observe the General's entrance. In high indignation, the latter is represented to have seized a candlestick, or, as others say, some sharp-cutting object, and to have flung it at his head. The stranger, turning round, received a severe wound in the head, in the neighbourhood of the eye, or, as others say, had his eye knocked out. That is the story; the fact is, that the same evening a *valet de place* was conveyed from the Hotel d'Angleterre to the hospital, where he seems to be under some danger of losing his eye from a hurt he has received."

The *Invalides* of the 8th inst. publishes officially that the betrothal of the Grand Duke Nicholas with Princess Alexandra, the eldest daughter of Prince Peter of Oldenburg, took place November 26th, the Grand Duke having first received the blessing of his mother, the Dowager Empress, and the permission of his brother, the Emperor.

It is stated that the English Government has demanded from the Court of Vienna an explanation of the motives which have induced it to reduce the Austrian army. The organisation of the militia will be extended in the spring to the Polish provinces.

Rumours have reached Bordeaux of the death of Mademoiselle Rachel in Philadelphia, from inflammation of the chest. The report, however, is not yet confirmed.

The *Gazette des Tribunaux* publishes the constitutive act of the London General Omnibus Company, for a period of sixty years, and at a capital of 25,000,000 francs (£1,000,000), divided into 250,000 shares of 100 francs (£4), each. Messrs. Arthur M'Namara and James Wilking, of London, and M. Nicholas Felix Carteret, formerly member of the Council of State of France, are to be the directors of the company.

The contemplated canal from Rassova to Kostendje has, it is said, been abandoned.

An appalling description of the Bagnio prison, on the Pera side of the Horn at Constantinople, has been communicated to the *Times* by Mr. S. G. Osborne. The writer was conducted down a dark passage, obscurely lit by a lantern which his guide carried. "In this darkness existed a number, I know not how large, of my fellow-creatures—chained, for we heard their movements—probably chained to one spot, for the path was clean. The stench was almost intolerable; there must have been many. We were saluted with yells from each side of 'Bono Johnny!' 'No Bono!' Their eyes, habituated to the darkness, could make us out when we could scarcely perceive the outlines of any of them. I am inclined to think, on another ground, that they were chained to particular spots; we had only two guards, and a stick seemed their only weapon." Having visited an ancient Greek chapel at the end of this passage, "we had to retrace our steps through this abode of the 'chained in darkness.' As we went, we were again greeted with that horrible chorus of groaning, laughing, and I presume cursing, with its accompaniment on the irons and chains of the poor wretches as before. I can scarce say I saw a single prisoner; guessing with the eye, one fancied one made them out, but then it was only a sort of shadow of moving bodies, clothed or unclothed."

Baron de Sejeune is to set out for Teheran in order to ratify a treaty of commerce and amity already contracted between France and Persia.

OBITUARY.

SAMUEL ROGERS.—This veteran poet and lover of art, who has outlived so many generations of men, and about whose age so many witticisms have been shot forth for the last thirty years or so, has at last succumbed. Mr. Rogers died early on Tuesday morning, in his ninety-sixth year. His house in St. James's-place was the scene of his demise. The life of Mr. Rogers spread over so large and so important a period of time that it presents within itself one of the most extraordinary series of historical, personal, and literary tableaux ever contained within the career of one man. The *Times*, contemplating this marvellous panorama, says:—"Let us take the most notable historic drama of the century—1793-1815—the rise, decline, and fall of Napoleon Bonaparte. This was but an episode in the life of Samuel Rogers. He was a young man of some standing in the world, fully of an age to appreciate the meaning and importance of the event, when the States-General were assembled in France. If we remember right, he actually was present in Paris at or about the time, and may have heard with his own ears Mirabeau hurling defiance at the Court, and seen Danton and Robespierre whispering to each other that their time was not yet come. Let us go back to other events as standards of admeasurement. As the war of the French Revolution and that against Napoleon Bonaparte were episodes in the ripe manhood, so was the American war an episode in the boyhood of Rogers. He was of an age to appreciate the grandeur, if not the political meaning of events, when Rodney won his naval victories and when General Elliott successfully defended Gibraltar. He could remember our differ-

ences with our American colonies and the battles of Bunker's Hill, Brandywine, and German Town, as well as a man now in manhood can remember the three glorious days of July and the Polish insurrection." The *Daily News*, writing from a similar point of view, remarks:—"He heard 'the talk of the town' (recorded by Dr. Adams) on Johnson's Letter to Lord Chesterfield; and he lived to see the improvement of the copyright law, the removal of most of the taxes on knowledge, and so vast an increase of the reading public as has rendered the function of patron of authorship obsolete. Samuel Rogers lived through the whole period when the publishers were the patrons, and witnessed the complete success of Mr. Dickens's plan of independence of the publishers themselves. He was a youth of fifteen or thereabouts when half 'the town' was scandalised at Dr. Johnson's audacity in saying what he did to Lord Chesterfield, and the other half was delighted at the courage of the rebuke. It was not long before that the 'Letters of Junius' had burst upon the political world; and Rogers was quite old enough to understand the nature of the triumph, when the prosecution of Woodfall failed, and the press preserved its liberty under the assaults of royal and ministerial displeasure. His connections in life fixed his attention full on the persecution of Priestley and other vindicators of liberty of speech; while he saw, in curious combination with this phase, that kind of patronage which even the Priestleys of those days accepted as a matter of course. He saw Garrick, and watched the entire career of every good actor since. All the Kembles fell within his span. He heard the first remarks on the 'Vicar of Wakefield,' and read, damp from the press, all the fiction that has appeared since from the Burneys, the Edgeworths, the Scotts, the Dickenses, and the Thackerays." Both the *Times* and the *Daily News* bear hearty testimony to the many generous actions of Rogers; but the latter journal shows the dark side of the picture in representing the combined servility and caustic bitterness of his character, adding:—"Whether he ever was in earnest, there is no sort of evidence but his acts; and the consequence was that his flattery went for nothing, except with novices, while his causticity bit as deep as he intended. He would begin with a series of outrageous compliments, in a measured style which forbade interruption; and, if he was allowed to finish, would go away and boast how much he had made a victim swallow. A multitude of his sayings are ranking in people's memories which could not possibly have had any other origin than the love of giving pain. Some were so atrocious as to suggest that he had a sort of psychological curiosity to see how people could bear such inflictions. Except the worship paid to the Railway King for his wealth, we know of nothing in modern society so extraordinary and humiliating as the deference paid to Rogers for his ill-nature."

COLONEL SIBTHORP.—This eccentric, but thoroughly honest embodiment of old Toryism, died at the latter end of last week at Lincoln, the city with which he was connected by birth, and which he represented so long in Parliament. "The deceased gentleman," says the *Times*, "was descended from an ancient family settled upwards of a century and a half at Canwick-hall, near Lincoln, many of whose members from time to time have represented that city in Parliament. His father, the late Mr. Humphry Waldo Sibthorp, sat for several years at the commencement of the present century. Charles Delaet Waldo Sibthorp, the deceased Colonel, was first elected in the high Tory interest in 1826, and with the exception of his brief Parliament of 1833-4, chosen under the excitement consequent upon the passing of the Reform Bill, he continued to represent Lincoln to the day of his death. Colonel Sibthorp was for many years a magistrate and deputy-lieutenant for the county of Lincoln, and in 1852 was gazetted to the Colonelcy of the South Lincolnshire Militia. He strenuously and consistently opposed in all their stages Catholic Emancipation, the Reform Bill, and the Abolition of Jewish Disabilities, and was one of the minority of fifty-three who censured free trade when Lord Derby was in office in November, 1852." The Colonel for many years performed the part of merry-maker to the House—an office which has recently been partly occupied by Mr. Henry Drummond, by whom the cap and bells will now be entirely engrossed.

Dr. W. F. CHAMBERS, late physician to the Queen, died, on the 16th inst., at his residence, Hordle House, near Lymington, Hampshire, in the sixty-eighth year of his age.

NAVAL AND MILITARY NEWS.

CHAPMAN, OF "CHAPMAN'S BATTERY."—Colonel Chapman, R.E., of Hull, whose achievements in the Crimea are well known, has been received by the inhabitants of Taunton with the utmost cordiality. A banquet was given him; and, in returning thanks for the toast of his health, he said, with reference to the war, that it would be unnecessary for him to expatiate on its events, because they had all read of them in

Mr. Russell's admirable and graphic letters in the *Times*.

A NEW SCREW STEAM GUN-BOAT.—The Cheerful, 2, screw steam gun-boat, Lieutenant William Hector Rason, commander, arrived at Sheerness on Saturday, from Woolwich, having had her compasses adjusted at Greenhithe. She proceeded on a trial of speed and steering qualities. At present she draws under five feet water, and is the first of the new class gun-boats built to be available, with her armament, to consist of two long 32-pounder guns and two 12-lb. howitzers. With a pressure of 60lb. on the square inch, she made 216 revolutions per minute, obtaining a speed of 7.97 knots per hour. Her steering qualities are admirable; she turns perfectly round within her own length, and is capable of carrying her full armament and stores at a very light draught of water.

FOUR MORE GUN-BOATS.—Orders have been received at Pembroke Dockyard, from the Admiralty, for the immediate construction of four more gun-boats. They are to be built with all possible despatch, and as many men as can well be employed upon them will at once be set to work. The 1st of March has been fixed for their completion; and, in order to finish them within the three months, the mechanics have commenced working the long hours. These boats are to be 100 feet in length, 22 feet in width, 6½ feet in depth, and about 200 tons burden; and their draught will be very slight.

SOLDIERS' REMITTANCES TO THEIR FAMILIES.—Major Powys writes to the *Times* to complain that, though most of the married soldiers in the Crimea "remit money to their wives, there are some who positively refuse to do so, knowing, as they do, that they cannot be compelled to support their wives and families." The Major says that the difficulty in remitting money has lately been slightly decreased; but that nothing will fully meet the case, except compelling the soldier to do his duty to those who depend on him. He encloses, however, a letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Warre, of the 57th, stating that in that regiment the conduct of the men has been admirable.

THE ARMY WORKS CORPS.—Five hundred artisans, handicraftsmen, and navvies, very carefully selected for the duties which they will have to discharge, embarked on Wednesday, with their officers on board the Jura steam transport, and proceed at an early hour to-day direct to the Crimea. They form a portion of Sir Joseph Paxton's Army Works Corps.

MISCELLANEOUS.

LOST IN A COAL-PIT.—Two coal-miners, named John Lokue and John Anderson, went down the shaft into Croft Pit, on the morning of Tuesday, of the 4th of December, for the purpose of commencing their labour. The two men left their homes about three o'clock in the morning, descended into the pit, and were not heard of again during that day. The hour had long gone past when the men should have returned home, but no tidings of them could be heard. Several miners volunteered to explore the pit, but still the men could not be found. At length the circumstance was made known to Lord Lonsdale's chief colliery agent, who placed himself at the head of a numerous staff and descended into the mine. The miners, acting on his advice, divided themselves into parties and proceeded in different directions. After searching every part of the pit, the men were discovered sitting in utter darkness almost at the utmost extremity of the mine, their lights having gone out soon after they had entered the pit, and they had wandered about, vainly attempting to find out the shaft by which they descended. They were restored to their homes about nine o'clock on Wednesday morning, after having been upwards of thirty hours in the mine. —*Carlisle Patriot*.

MRS. BULLER, wife of Mr. J. W. Buller, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Bristol and Exeter Railway Company, has died from the effects of a serious accident. Stepping out of her carriage, she fell and ruptured a blood-vessel, in consequence of which she expired after lingering for a few days.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND.—The annual general meeting of the members of this society took place on Saturday, when the report for the year was read, and a financial statement was brought forward, showing a balance of £2,683 in favour of the society. After a short discussion, leading to no practical result, on the subject of advances for land drainage, &c., the meeting separated.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—Henry Smith, while joining a line for the electric telegraph on the London and Blackwall Railway, was caught by the step of one of the carriages of an advancing train, and thrown against a wall, from which he rebounded, turned round, and fell on his back. Something then caught him, which knocked him several yards forward, and the wheels of the carriage passed over his legs. He was struck on the head, and the engine turned him over and over, and then dropped him, and went on. He was picked up quite dead. A man who was working with him had a very narrow escape. — A man named Beattie, switchman on the North Kent line, has been committed for trial, on a charge of causing

an accident on the 7th inst. A train was crossing the points leading to the Bricklayers' Arms station, when, before it had entirely passed, Beattie discovered that it was going on to the wrong line. He therefore inconsiderately reversed the points; the latter part of the train took a contrary direction to the first part; the coupling chains were broken; and some of the carriages were driven against a wall, injuring several passengers.

THE HACKNEY CHURCH-RATE.—The poll with respect to this contemplated rate closed last Saturday afternoon by a majority of 417 against it; the numbers being:—For the rate, 882; against, 1,299. The majority of persons was still more decisive, being 503 for; 1,001 against.

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. W. DOWNING BRUCE.—A meeting was held at Anderson's Hotel, on Saturday evening, to forward a subscription that has been entered into for presenting a testimonial to Mr. W. Downing Bruce, the originator of the *Civil Service Gazette*, a gentleman with great claims on the gratitude of civil servants, in having discovered that the five per cent. withheld by the Government from their salaries, to form what was called a superannuation fund, was not so applied, no such fund being in existence. The money already subscribed for this object had been mismanaged, and some even, it was thought, had been misappropriated. Certain arrangements having been made with respect to future subscriptions, the meeting separated.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE IN A RAILWAY CARRIAGE.—A farmer, named Gascoot, residing in the neighbourhood of Exeter, was recently arrested on a charge of stealing sheep. While in goal, he attempted to cut his throat; and, on being conveyed by rail to Exeter for examination, endeavoured to leap out of the carriage window, but was prevented.

THE DIPLOMACY OF THE GREEN-ROOM.—The following anecdote is narrated by the musical critic of *Galignani's Messenger*.—"It appears that Madame Penco, being somewhat indisposed, and, moreover, fatigued by the daily rehearsals of *Piorina*, acquainted the director that she was unable to sing in *Il Trovatore* on Tuesday night. M. Calzadò, naturally desiring not to interrupt the run of his most attractive opera, proposed to Madame Frezzolini to supply her place. She consented. There was an excellent house, and all went merrily until the hour of eight, when the director received a message that Madame Frezzolini desired to see him. He hastened to the lady's dressing-room, and found her attired for her part, and looking charmingly. In a few words she told him that her professional work did not allow her to become the double of any other artiste, and that she would only go on the stage for the part on condition that she should retain it throughout the season. M. Calzadò, considerably taken aback at this bold and quite unexpected move, proposed some negotiations on the subject, but the fair Leonora, drawing a written document from her pocket declaring her the sole representative of the character during the period she had stated, politely required his signature, the alternative being that she would immediately undress and quit the theatre. What was M. Calzadò to do? The public waiting, and the orchestra ready to begin, he signed the document, and the gentle diplomatist remains in possession of the part, no doubt to the great mortification of Madame Penco and the displeasure of the director."

THE WEST COAST OF AFRICA.—Intelligence from the west coast of Africa, dating from early in November to the close of that month, has just arrived. Fernando Po and Liberia were healthy. Business was slowly improving at Mellicourie River. The disturbance at the Sherbo River was not settled. Several native villages had been destroyed, and the spirit of disaffection was spreading over the whole country. Lamma Toule, king of the Nalons, in the Rio Nunez, is reported to have died lately. This event is expected to lead to further tumult there.

FIRE AT BRISTOL.—A very extensive fire broke out at Bristol in the early part of the present week. The premises of a silversmith and jeweller in St. Augustine's Parade were entirely destroyed, and several of the adjoining houses were greatly injured. A woman and two policemen were seriously hurt, and Captain Fisher, the superintendent of the police force, had a very narrow escape from the fall of a burning floor.

THE SIEGE OF KARS.—Mr. James Wyld has published a plan showing the positions at the late siege of Kars, and the repulse of the Russians on the 29th September by General Williams. The name of Mr. Wyld is a guarantee for excellence and carefulness of execution: we therefore need only call attention to the publication of this plan, for the benefit of those who wish to study the recently concluded operations in Asia.

SIR COLIN CAMPBELL has declined an invitation to be nominated for Glasgow, in the event of a dissolution of Parliament. The General states that his lifelong devotion to his profession has left him ignorant of many commercial matters which the representative of such a town as Glasgow should understand.

A NEW VARIABLE STAR OR SMALL PLANET.—Mr. J. R. Hind writes as follows from Mr. Bishop's

observatory, Regent's park, under date the 18th inst.:—About nine o'clock on Saturday evening, I remarked, near 84 Geminorum, an object shining as a star of the ninth magnitude, which I have not seen before during the five years that my attention has been directed to this part of the heavens. At five o'clock on the following morning, it appeared to be in the same place, whence I conclude it must be a variable star of long period recently come into view. It is, however, just possible that a small planet hereabouts might have been stationary; and, the weather having continued cloudy since my last observation, I am induced to notify the circumstance, that the nature of this object may be ascertained as early as possible. Its mean place for January 1, 1856, is in right ascension 7h. 46m. 33.65s., and north Polar distance 67deg. 37min. 17.1sec. It exhibits the pale blue light which characterises many of the telescopic planets, and nothing of the fiery appearance often presented by variable stars. Still, I incline to place it in the latter class."

GUANO.—A guano island, very rich in that valuable manure, has been discovered by an American sea-captain in the Pacific Ocean; and a company has been formed to work it. The island is quite desert.

FATAL FURNACE EXPLOSION.—An explosion, resulting in the death of four men, has taken place at the furnaces of Messrs. G. H. and A. Hickman, Bilston. The whole of the contents of the furnace, at red heat, were projected from the furnace, and covered over a large space of ground in front of the entrance to the crucible. The iron was in a red molten state, and within its range there were, unfortunately, at the time five persons, of whom four have since died. The accident is supposed to have arisen from the sudden contact of water with the melted iron. More than five tons of molten iron and burning cinder were ejected with a force so great that portions of it, after displacing articles of great weight by which its progress was impeded, fell at a distance of about thirty yards. The survivor is seriously scalded.

DISASTERS ON THE WELSH COAST.—Some very heavy weather has been experienced on the west coast of Wales, accompanied with thick fogs at intervals, and, from numerous pieces of wreck washed ashore, it is feared that several vessels have been lost. The loss of five lives is supposed to have occurred by the collision, during a fog, of the *Cameleon* and the *Echo*. They were on opposite courses, and did not perceive their vicinity until too late to avoid the collision, when the *Echo* was struck with such power that her bows were stove in, and she rapidly filled and sank. The mate, the master's wife, and several of the crew, saved their lives by jumping on board the *Cameleon*; but it is thought that the master and four of the crew went down in the sinking vessel. The headboard of the *Echo* has since been washed ashore at Fishguard. In Milford Haven, two men have lost their lives while returning from Pater to Dale; the boat has been found near the Stack Rock, but of the men no trace has been discovered.

MISS NIGHTINGALE.—The Queen has presented a jewelled ornament to Miss Nightingale, accompanied by an autograph letter.

REPRESENTATION OF LINCOLN.—The seat vacated by the death of Colonel Sibthorp will be contested by his son and heir, Major Gervase T. W. Sibthorp, and Mr. Charles Seeley, a wealthy merchant of Lincoln and a Radical. The Major professes to be "essentially Conservative," but in favour of "progressing with the spirit of the age," of "social advancement," "national education," and "civil and religious liberty," being "desirous that every religious denomination should exercise its rights free and unfettered, as guaranteed by the prudence of the legislature." What will the old Colonel's ghost say to this Radical "Conservatism"? Both gentlemen are in favour of the war.

BARON MARTIN AND THE SLOW-POISONING CASE.—We understand, on good authority, that the observations which have been suggested by the remark alleged to have proceeded from Baron Martin, in the case of the Queen v. Wooler, have originated in a total misconception of what was said by the learned Judge. Baron Martin, at the close of his able and clear summing-up of a very difficult trial, said, we are assured, that there was no evidence to convict the prisoner or any other person of the crime for which Mr. Wooler was indicted, and that had he allowed his imagination to play over the case, his suspicions would rather have rested anywhere than on him.—*Morning Post*.

THE POST-OFFICE AND THE ARMY IN THE EAST.—The Duke of Argyll has decided to send out immediate instructions to the officers of the Army Post-office in the East to open money-order offices, for the transmission of money to the United Kingdom, at Constantinople, Scutari, Headquarters of the Army, and Balaklava.

EXCOMMUNICATION AT COBLENZ.—Last summer, M. Sonntag, a merchant at Coblenz, was commanded by the clergy to separate from his wife, to whom he had been married by the civil law only, and, not obeying their decree, he has been excommunicated. Dean Krauzentz, after preaching a sermon against the

civil marriage, put on some other sacerdotal garments, and, accompanied by two clergymen bearing wax tapers, read, standing in the middle of the church, the sentence of excommunication against M. Sonntag and his lady. He then extinguished the tapers, saying that the persons named were not worthy to see the day of the Lord, and, throwing the candlesticks to the ground, breaking them to pieces, exclaimed, "Let the bells sound the funeral knell!" Immediately was heard the sound of bells and the chants for the dead. The dean, in conclusion, proclaimed that no one whomsoever was to hold relations with the excommunicated, to salute them, &c. This prohibition has not had much effect, for their house has been filled ever since with visitors, and at night they have been serenaded.—*Letter from Coblenz* (Dec. 12).

GUNPOWDER EXPLOSION AND LOSS OF LIFE IN SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE.—A frightful catastrophe occurred on Friday week, at Coseley, near Sedgley, in South Staffordshire, which has already killed four persons, and injured several others, some of whom are not expected to recover, in addition to destroying a considerable amount of property. It is customary in the mining districts of Staffordshire for the overseers of pits, either of iron, stone, or coal, and who are technically called "butties," to keep in their possession large quantities of blasting gunpowder, which is not unfrequently kept in unsafe places, and used with a guilty want of caution. The present catastrophe is one of the results, it is feared, of this reprehensible practice. At the Coppice, on the road leading to the nearest station of the Stour Valley branch of the London and North-Western Railway, stood three small houses, inhabited by men employed in the neighbouring mines and others. On the morning of last Friday week, the occupant of the middle house, a man named David Millard, went with his son and two fellow-labourers to work at a colliery in Prior-fields. After they had worked about a couple of hours, Millard sent a boy to his house to fetch some gunpowder from the cellar where a stock was kept. Soon after, Millard ordered his son to bring some horse-corn from one of the houses; on arriving at which he met the first boy with the gunpowder he had been desired to fetch. Having to wait some time for the horse-corn, young Millard went out to his father's house to warm himself, and had not left the corn-shop many minutes when a tremendous explosion took place, which blew up both that and the two adjoining houses with all their inhabitants. Four persons were immediately killed by the explosion. These were David Millard's wife and three children, including the boy who had been sent for the corn. Several others were more or less injured, some very seriously. The doleful news of his family was communicated as rapidly as possible to Millard, who repaired at once to the spot where the accident occurred, and where the first object he saw among the ruins of his dwelling was one of the lower limbs of his wife, quite crushed. The rest of her mutilated remains were afterwards dug out from the rubbish. Seeing the head of one of his little boys amongst the ruins, he was extricated, and is likely to recover. The other dead bodies were afterwards discovered and disinterred. The cause of the explosion is not positively known, but it is quite certain that Millard kept gunpowder in the cellar of his house. He admits the fact, but adds that, in the barrel, there was on Friday only a small quantity. From the position of the body of his son, and from the circumstance of gunpowder having been found in his pockets, there is no doubt that, with the desire of possessing some powder—a desire incited, probably, by seeing his companion with some—he took a light into his father's cellar, and was obtaining the dangerous prize when a spark ignited the powder, and the explosion ensued.

NORTH WEST LONDON REFORMATORY.—This institution, which has been almost wholly rebuilt, was opened on Wednesday by a public meeting, at which Sir Benjamin Hall, M.P., and other gentlemen of note, were present. The chair was occupied by the Hon. W. F. Cowper, M.P. The new building is capable of accommodating one hundred inmates.

THE METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS.—This new board held its first sitting on Wednesday, on which occasion the salary of the chairman was fixed at £1,500 a year.

MEDICAL REFORM.—A deputation of medical men waited on Sir George Grey, on Thursday, to request his support, and that of the Government, to the medical bill of Mr. Headlam. Sir George replied that he would give the bill his individual support, after it should have received certain modifications; but that he could not pledge the Government.

SUFFOCATION BY COKE.—Two men have been suffocated at Middlesbrough by sleeping in a room with burning coke.

FIRE AND LOSS OF LIFE.—A fire broke out on Thursday morning on the premises of a gas-fitter in Mint-street, Southwark, by which a Mrs. Robinson and her child have been burnt to death.

FIVE PERSONS ACCIDENTALLY POISONED.—Five persons have been poisoned (two of whom have died)

at Billesdown, Leicestershire, by partaking of a pudding in which arsenic had been mixed in mistake for egg-powder. The two who died were an old woman and a child.

DR. HASLEWOOD has written to the *Times* to defend the course he took in connection with the death of Mrs. Wooler, in concealing his suspicion of poison. He argues that, had he made known his conjectures to the poor lady, it could not have saved her life, as she was doomed, while it would have subjected her to an unnecessary horror, and have precipitated her death.

ASCENT OF MOUNT IDA, IN CRETE.—The ascent of the highest peak of Mount Ida, in Crete, was accomplished on the 3rd of last month—probably for the first time by any of our countrymen—by two English officers and myself, the rest of our large party having proceeded only so far as the grotto (about 5,000 feet above the level of the sea), in which, according to the old legend, the infant Jupiter was concealed. At six o'clock A.M., on the morning of the 3rd, we commenced the ascent of the mountain, and in two hours and a half reached "Jupiter's" Grotto. So far the path is passable for mules, and winds up under precipitous cliffs and through a magnificent forest of evergreen oaks. Half an hour above the grotto we reached the base of the central cone of the mountain, which reminded me of that of Parnassus; and here we left our mules. The toilsome and abrupt ascent of this cone took us two hours on foot before we reached the summit of the highest of the three peaks in which it terminates, and which, as nearly as it can be ascertained, is 7,674 feet above the sea. This point commands one of the most extensive, most beautiful, and most interesting panoramic views in the world. The whole of Crete was spread out like a map below our feet; the outlines of the White Mountains to the west, and those of the Dictæan Mountains to the east, with the coast line of the Ægean to the north, and of the African Sea to the east, are perfect in variety and beauty. In clear weather many of the "isles which crown the Ægean deep" are visible, as also Grandos (the Claudia of the "Acts of the Apostles"), in the African Sea.—*Letter in the Times*.

THE PLACARD BIBLE.—We learn from the *British Banner* that a proposal has been set on foot for posting placards all over the City containing passages from the Bible, printed in the largest characters, so as to arrest attention. Each placard to contain only one verse, and sometimes only one sentence; and to be renewed as frequently as the funds obtained will permit.

THE SOUND DUES.—THE UNITED STATES AND DENMARK.—Mr. Marcy, the Foreign Minister of the United States, has addressed to the Danish government a despatch relative to the proposed convention at Copenhagen to settle the Sound dues question. The President declines to send a representative to the conference; and Mr. Marcy says:—"The convention is to assume as a basis of its proceedings the very right on the part of Denmark which the United States deny. It is assembled without any power to pass an opinion upon the right of Denmark to levy a contribution upon commerce, but only authorised to adjust the sum to be paid by each nation in lieu of the collections theretofore assessed upon their respective vessels and cargoes. The United States, however, contest their liability to pay any contribution whatever. The main question at issue between this government and that of Denmark, is not how much burden shall be borne by our commerce to the Baltic, but whether it shall be subjected to any burden at all."

THE BISHOP OF MANCHESTER ON CHURCH-RATES.—The Bishop of Manchester, who is at present engaged in the triennial visitation of his diocese, makes the following remarks on church-rates in his charge to the clergy:—"The returns called for in August, 1854, at the request of the committee of Convocation of the province of Canterbury, showed that, in the majority of instances, the recovery of church-rates in this diocese is almost, if not quite, hopeless; and that the number of parishes refusing was, if anything, on the increase. As a principle expressly recognised eight hundred years ago in the laws of Canute, and acknowledged uninterruptedly since by both ecclesiastical and civil courts, the obligation to contribute to the repair and sustentation of churches cannot be denied. It may be doubtful, however, how far now, in the altered position of those not connected with the establishment, it may not be wise to limit the demand on the public to the maintenance of the fabric of our ancient edifices, leaving the cost of the service to the private contributions and the piety of those who benefit by its performance."

ANOTHER CASE OF SUSPECTED POISONING.—An inquest was held at the Three Tuns Inn, Catherine-street, Devonport, before A. B. Bone, Esq., coroner, touching the death of Louisa Mitchell, alias Louisa Hallett, living as the wife of Mr. John Hallett, druggist, of James-street, but commonly known as Dr. Hallett. It appeared that the deceased had lived with Dr. Hallett upwards of seven years as his wife,

and, from the evidence of several witnesses, they had lived in a state of discomfort, and had quarrelled frequently. The deceased had been ill several months. At the inquest, a great deal of irrelevant evidence was given. The medical witness stated that deceased died from congestion of the lungs, not arising from natural causes. The jury here pressed the witness to give an opinion whether poison had been administered; and he replied that it was his opinion that something of a deleterious nature had been administered, but he was unable to say what. The inquest was adjourned to Monday, the 31st inst., to give time to have the contents of the stomach analysed.

ERRATUM.—In our last week's paper, news article "The Monomania of Jealousy," middle column, for "Handcock was 'induced' to leave the room, read, was 'requested'."

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, December 22.

WAR MOVEMENTS.

THE *Journal de Constantinople* says, that after the passage of the Unfour or Ingour, Omar Pacha moved rapidly forward, crossing several tributaries of the Rion, without meeting serious resistance. On the banks of the Chopi stands a fortified village of the same name, having "a very considerable dépôt of ammunition and provisions, and eight battalions to defend the position." According to the *Journal*, Omar Pacha attacked at once, and the Russians resisted but feebly, and quickly gave way, retiring without either carrying away or destroying his stores. Of what these consisted, beyond 12,000 sheepskins, the *Journal* says nothing, but adds that Omar Pacha continued his march; that the last news from Batoum (via Trebizond) stated him to be on the banks of the Rion, opposite Kutais; and that he would soon be in possession of that town, which was defended by 8,000 or 10,000 Russians.

The *Invalide Russe* publishes the following:—"Aide-de-Camp General Prince Gortschakoff has forwarded the following, under date of the 25th of November (10th December):—"Everything goes on satisfactorily in the Crimea. On the 26th of November (8th of December), Colonel Oklobjio, with a small portion of the detachment of the Upper Belbek, crossed the mountain pass which gives access to the valley of Baidar, attacked the advanced post of the enemy at Ourkousta, and at Baga, and, having dislodged them from those villages, threw them back upon the Tchernaya. Twenty prisoners remained in our hands."

DIPLOMATIC MOVEMENTS.

THE Swedish Ambassador at Vienna has formally announced to the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, that his Cabinet adheres to the views of the Western Powers in regard to the four points of guarantee.

It is said that Count Stackelberg brought proposals of peace to Vienna from St. Petersburg, somewhat different from those agreed on by Austria and the allies.

The subject of the Principalities is reported to be finally adjourned, and Count Coronini is consequently to resume the command there.

MR. TRELAWNEY, formerly member for Tavistock, has been invited by that borough to come forward on the Liberal interest in the event of a dissolution of Parliament.

DEATH OF THREE CHILDREN FROM STARVATION.—An inquest was held in Hope Town, Bethnal Green, on the bodies of three children, ranging from two to seven years, who have recently died from starvation. Their mother, who was a widow, was left in a state of destitution, and she received from the parish two quarters and a-half of bread, and 1s. 3d. in money, per week. She has three other children besides those who have died. The latter had suffered from hooping cough and inflammation of the lungs; and it is but too clear that death was hastened by the want of common necessities. The jury returned a verdict of "Died by the Visitation of God."

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of his good faith. Communications should always be legibly written, and on one side of the paper only. If long, it increases the difficulty of finding space for them.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications. It is impossible to acknowledge the mass of letters we receive. Their insertion is often delayed, owing to a press of matter; and when omitted, it is frequently from reasons quite independent of the merits of the communication.

"The Law of Partnership" (continued), and several other articles, are unavoidably omitted this week.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1855.

Public Affairs.

There is nothing so revolutionary, because there is nothing so unnatural and convulsive, as the strain to keep things fixed when all the world is by the very law of its creation in eternal progress.—*DR. ARNOLD.*

THE GUARDS' MEMORIAL.

UPWARDS of a year ago Her MAJESTY'S Government, adopting the recommendation of a commission, made many improvements in the promotion of officers. Among others it was ordered that all Lieutenant-Colonels actually in command of regiments or battalions for three years, should become Colonels. Up to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel promotion may be purchased; beyond that rank, except for distinguished service, promotion goes by rule and routine. But before the warrant of October, 1854, there was virtually one rule of promotion for her MAJESTY'S Guards, another for the officers in her MAJESTY'S regiments of the Line. A few words will explain this.

The Brigade of Guards is composed of seven battalions, each battalion being practically a regiment. The officers of each battalion held higher rank than the corresponding officers of the Line. As long ago as 1687, King JAMES conferred the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the army on the Captains of the Guards; in 1691, WILLIAM the THIRD conferred the rank of Captain in the army on the Lieutenants; in 1815, King GEORGE the THIRD conferred the rank of Lieutenant on the Ensigns. Thus, in the race for promotion, the Guards were always one step ahead of the Line. A Captain and Lieutenant-Colonel in the Guards could exchange into a Line regiment, and take the command—a thing not unfrequently done. The consequence of this state of things was, that the officers of the Guards rose more rapidly to the rank of Colonel and Major-General than their brethren of the Line. Of course, besides being exempt from harassing foreign service, they had higher pay than the officers of the Line, and were in every way a petted and privileged corps. They did not, nay, they do not, even take their orders from the Commander-in-Chief, but from the Crown, being in fact the most monarchical of our institutions.

These privileges have long been held, and justly, to be grievances by the Linesmen; and it has frequently been in debate, both as a matter of politics and military polity, whether it is wise or just to maintain such a privileged corps. We looked upon the warrant of October, 1854, as a step in the right direction; and it is undeniable that its effect was to take away one of the privileges of the Guards. Had the warrant simply ordered that all Lieutenant-Colonels should become Colonels after three years' service, of course the privilege of the Guards would have been

untouched, and all their Captain Lieutenant-Colonels, although only commanding companies, would have been eligible for promotion. But the warrant wisely excluded all the Captains in the Guards who were not serving as acting Majors or mounted officers; that is, all who were not in command of battalions. This was only just to the Line; for it would have been a mockery to confer the same rights on those who were only Captains of companies, as were conferred on those who actually commanded regiments.

But this decision greatly enraged the Guardsmen. They consulted together, and determined to petition the QUEEN for redress. What course did they adopt? Secretly they drew up an able but tedious memorial of their grievances; put forward the antiquity of their privileges; urged their "vested interests." Yet they interlarded their statements with protestations that did not grudge the Linesmen their chances of promotion—that they did object to be more on an equality with the Line. They insisted that they were hardly treated; that juniors had jumped over their heads; and they did not hesitate to charge the authorities with a breach of faith. This memorial was signed—by whom? Remember that it was to be presented to the QUEEN; that it prayed Her MAJESTY to put her loyal Guards on a "footing of equality" with the rest of the army. The first name in the list of signatures is—the QUEEN's husband—"ALBERT, F.M., Colonel of the Grenadier Guards;" the third is the QUEEN's cousin—"GEORGE, Lieutenant-General, Colonel of the Scots Fusilier Guards." The others were Field-Marshal LORD STRAFFORD, Colonel WOOD, Colonel UPTON, and Colonel MONCRIEFFE.

It is hardly possible to conceive a more painful, a more improper position than that in which the PRINCE CONSORT has placed himself. He, a Field-Marshal, a Colonel of Guards, ranks unearned by military service—ranks without corresponding duties, lends his name to a prayer for invidious privileges on behalf of the Brigade in which he nominally commands—three battalions. For, be it remembered, that these Colonelcies are barely realities in anything but pay. The real Colonel of the Grenadier Guards is "THOMAS WOOD." The titular Colonelcies are professedly intended to be rewards for distinguished or meritorious services, and it was understood that these very Colonelcies of the Guards should be reserved for distinguished men. What a farce it is. The other officers may be forgiven for their share in this memorial; but the public, whether they forgive or not, will surely never forget that the QUEEN's husband, at a moment when the Line is shedding its blood as freely as the Guards, petitioned his favour for a restoration of military privileges in favour of the latter that justice and policy alike had abolished.

It may be a question whether there should be any privileged corps in an army. Even under a limited monarchy the distinction seems to imply that one section is a royal, the other a national, body of troops. It is rather too late in the day to maintain a distinction which is a relic of despotism. The Guards are not a picked but a privileged corps. Their officers, for the men do not enter into this controversy, are remarkable for their wealth and connections; they are not chosen because they are the best officers in the service, which they would be were they a picked body. They fight well; but soldiering is, with rare exceptions, not a profession with them—it is a mode of life. It is an open question whether picked corps, to belong to which is a real military distinction, and which forms a model to the army, is a good military institution;

but there are few who will not condemn, as unjust and impolitic, at least in England, a privileged corps like the Guards.

It is not likely, that however willing her MAJESTY may be to give ALBERT's comrades what she is told is their due, she will be able to prevail on Ministers to accord her wish. This, of course, only makes the position of the PRINCE CONSORT and of the QUEEN, the more painful; but it may be a lesson to the PRINCE to eschew military matters, and confine his energies to the Department of Practical Art, and to the Society of Arts, and other similarly innocuous and inoffensive subjects.

THE WAR IN ASIA.

THE fall of Kars has greatly altered the aspect of the war in Asia. So long as the brave garrison of that fortified position held out the Russians were grievously checked, and every movement in Armenia and Kurdistan was necessarily suspended. But it has long been foreseen that unless a powerful diversion were operated, or a determined effort made to relieve the place, or the winter compelled General MOURAVIEFF to retire to Gumri, Kars must fall. At first it is obvious MOURAVIEFF placed too high a value on the operations of OMAR PACHA and SELIM PACHA, and that led him to attempt the capture of Kars by storm. By steadfastly keeping his ground, even after the terrible defeat of the 29th September, and the setting in of the winter, MOURAVIEFF showed that he estimated the diversion of OMAR PACHA at its true value, that he rightly counted on the tardiness or weakness of SELIM PACHA, and that he probably knew to an ounce the amount of stores there were in Kars.

How was Kars lost to Turkey? It is not enough to say that OMAR PACHA did not undertake sufficiently soon his diversion; that SELIM PACHA did not move from Erzeroum; that the Anglo-Turkish contingent did not hasten to the relief of Kars. Why did they not do so? Surely it is too much to reply—Turkish apathy; because the Anglo-Turkish Contingent is not under the orders of the Sublime Porte. A relieving army might have marched, either from Trebizond or Batoum, directly on Kars, or a strong army might, early in the summer, have operated an effective diversion on the Rhion. These things were not done. Not a private soldier, French or English, has shown himself in Armenia, only three or four officers were sent there early in the struggle. The apathy of the Porte does not account for the absence of the Allies. Kars was a town of great importance—the flanking watchtower on the road to Persia, the outer gate of Erzeroum, the feeble counterpoise to Gumri. Surely, the French and English Governments alike see the importance of Asia to both their interests. If Russia succeed in Asia, she will deal serious blows at England and France. The sovereignty of the Levant is more a French than an English question, just as a settlement in the Persian gulf would be more an English than a French question. Russia aims at Syria as well as the Persian gulf. Would France like to see Russia a Mediterranean Power? Something more is needed to account for the abstinence from action in Asia on the part of the Western Powers than the statements in the leading journal and other quarters. Something, we are persuaded, has been kept back, or is discreetly withheld by those who have it in their possession, which would fully account for the disasters of the Asian campaign. Shall we ever know?—if we did, would it avail us?

The present state of the campaign is very perplexing. OMAR PACHA is said to be in or near Kutais. Has he then heard of the fall of

Kars, and does he nevertheless persevere? From the course of his march it is obvious that OMAR PACHA's movement from Souchum Kaleh was quite unsuspected by the Russians, and quite unprepared for. He carried the Ingour, occupied Sugdidi, fought, it is said, a second battle at Khoni, and won it; and still pressed on for Kutais. While Kars held out this was a bold and prudent operation, well calculated to compel MOURAVIEFF to draw off from Kars for the defence of Tiflis. But, as the Russian General doubted the ability of the garrison to hold out, so he seems to have doubted the power of OMAR PACHA to carry out his project. The fruit was Kars. Now, General MOURAVIEFF can leave a garrison there, and, if the snow permit, hasten with the rest of his army to force back the Turkish General. The question is, whether the latter can hold his ground, and, if he press on, can he keep it, and maintain intact through the winter a long line of communications with the sea? Supposing the goal of OMAR PACHA is Akhaltsikh, instead of Tiflis, and General MOURAVIEFF occupies it first, how will it be possible for OMAR PACHA to hold his ground? We confess we look on his position with apprehension.

There is another aspect of the question. Kars has fallen, and Russia is victorious. The Porte is pledged to the war in Asia; her troops are entangled in the matter; she is in every way committed. The Allies really promised to back her; will they keep their promise? If they do, they will have to fight a sanguinary, a religious war; if they do not, at least Turkish Armenia will run great risks of being conquered.

THE NEW METROPOLITAN LEGISLATURE.

LONDON is formed into a Federal Municipality. It is, indeed, at present only confederated for certain purposes. The several districts have elected their new vestries, and have sent their representatives to the General Board of Works, which will manage the Metropolis with reference to roads, drainage, &c. The members of the Metropolitan Parliament have met, and have taken a business view of their position. They look first to their first duties, and show an unusual degree of scrupulousness in doing those duties properly. Their first care was to fix the salary of their chairman, then to elect him. They fixed the salary at a minimum,—that is the fashion of the day. They deferred the election of their chairman, but they laid down the peremptory condition that he must give up the whole of his time to the commission. They are looking at present only to works; they trouble themselves not with local politics, or the numberless duties that may ultimately come before a federal administration of the Metropolis. Works at present feed all their minds, and they evidently desire to have a chairman efficient, and faithful, and cheap.

The so-called "utilitarian" spirit of the day, which runs always to the most material and narrowest view of uses, has tended much to extinguish that healthy tone of action which makes men "ambitious." It is partly because our middle-classes are not enough ambitious—they call ambition a vice—that they leave power to be assumed by those whom birth or wealth places at the head of affairs; and we are governed by an aristocracy of privilege, because the love of power has declined in the breasts of the people. Hence, they can at present conceive no higher idea of a Board of Works with a working agent in the chair.

Time will expand the ideas of the new Metropolitan Parliament; and, if they choose an efficient chairman, he may help the expansion. One man has been named amongst the candidates who would be efficient in his duties,

certainly most clear-sighted, and as independent as any man in the whole country—it is Mr. ROEBUCK. The public would like to see him placed there. But he is a man not without ambition. He is capable of seeing that the Board of Works is only the germ of the greatest municipality that the world ever saw. The new Council of Forty placed over our empire city, greater than that of Venice in extent of population and wealth,—a giant to a dwarf,—appears to us to have under-estimated its own position, except in the endeavour to bring its chairman under it with a crushing supremacy in the council over its President. This beats Venice: the Doge was not reduced to his full tractability before the lapse of centuries. Mr. ROEBUCK, however, has the spirit of a *Marino Faliero*, and he needs not fear the fate of that great man.

THE REGIUS PROFESSOR'S SUBMISSION.

OUR readers are aware that there has recently been a great stir at Oxford and in the religious newspapers about a book written by the Rev. BENJAMIN JOWETT, of Balliol College. Mr. JOWETT, who, luckily for himself, was made Professor of Greek just before the *émeute* began, is one of the best men and most influential teachers at Oxford. His book is a very able (we believe it is undoubtedly the ablest) commentary on the Epistles to the Romans, Thessalonians, and Galatians—a commentary learned without pedantry, and as candid as it is possible for any one under the writer's circumstances to be. The commentary is interspersed with Essays, very beautifully written, and often very masterly, on subjects connected with the Life, Character, and Doctrines of St. PAUL, and the nature and institutions of Primitive Christianity;—the account of Primitive Christianity being probably the most comprehensive, philosophic, and trustworthy thing of the kind we have. The whole work is marked by conspicuous excellencies and equally conspicuous defects. The excellencies arise from learning, philosophy, earnest thought, candour, real human sympathies, honesty of purpose. The defects arise from timidity, inconclusiveness, the enfeebling and mystifying influences of German philosophy—the tyranny of clerical obligations. You feel the pressure of the white neckcloth in every page, forcing the writer not only to stop short of obvious conclusions, but sometimes even to draw from his premises an opposite conclusion from that to which they obviously lead. Such is the character of the work which seems destined to make almost as great a commotion in the Church as Dr. HAMPTDEN's "Bampton Lectures," or Mr. WARD's "Ideal."

On two points, however, Mr. JOWETT has put aside that veil of mystic philosophy in which he generally envelopes dangerous questions, and has spoken out too plainly for the endurance of his order. The one is the Conversion of St. PAUL, the other is the Doctrine of the Atonement. He has intimated pretty clearly that the miraculous conversion of St. PAUL may have been only what is called a subjective fact,—that is, in plain English, no fact at all, but a fiction of the imagination. In regard to the Atonement, Mr. JOWETT, in effect, denies that God was reconciled to man by the sacrifice of CHRIST—that He is capable of interposing fictions of wrath or mercy between Himself and His creatures—of taking the sufferings of the innocent as a propitiation for the sins of the guilty—or being moved, like a human conqueror, to momentary compassion. He admits, in short, that the common and orthodox doctrine of the Atonement is contrary to our moral sense, and to all worthy conceptions of the nature of God.

Hereupon, Mr. GOLIGHTLY, who plays the part of a sort of Informer-general against rising heresies at Oxford, and Dr. MACBRIDE, a good old man and excellent Head of a House, whom we regret to see mixing in the persecution of free opinion, delate Mr. JOWETT to the Vice-Chancellor, and the Vice-Chancellor, by virtue of the authority given him in such cases, calls upon Mr. JOWETT to repeat his subscription to the Thirty-nine Articles, which, among other things, most distinctly affirm the common, orthodox, and, according to Mr. JOWETT, immoral and impious doctrine of the Atonement. Mr. JOWETT thus summoned by the Proconsul to burn incense to the image of CÆSAR, burns incense without the slightest hesitation.

This submission may seem at first sight calculated to excite considerable surprise, and even indignation. But the indignation, if pointed at Mr. JOWETT individually, would be unjust. Membership of a national University is made to depend on the belief in Articles, which no one of the various sects in the Church of England believe, except perhaps the remnant of the High-and-Dry-school; and which even the remnant of the High-and-Dry-school believe in ignorance, which to them is bliss. Hence has arisen a regular system of subscription in 'non-natural' senses, a system which the NEWMANITES first openly avowed, and carried to the most unblushing extent. High Churchmen of course cannot conscientiously speak to the Article which sets Scripture (that is, of course, Scripture interpreted by the reason of the individual) above the Church, or to the Article which consecrates Erastianism by laying it down that General Councils cannot be summoned without the consent of Princes, and cuts away the very root of the High Church theory, by declaring that General Councils, when summoned, are liable to err. Some of them used to get over the words requiring the consent of princes to the assembling of Councils, by interpreting them as an assertion of the pregnant and relevant fact that the Bishops cannot get to the place of meeting unless Princes will allow them to have the use of railways and postchaises! Again, the Evangelicals cannot conscientiously assent to the Canon (subscribed with the Articles) which declares that all the doctrines contained in the Book of Common Prayer, among others the doctrine of Baptismal Regeneration, are agreeable to the Word of God. They therefore must blink or distort the obnoxious passages when they set their hands to the Canon. The official faith of the University is an organised hypocrisy, grown so familiar as not to touch the moral sense, of which Mr. JOWETT is an instance only, though he happens to be a somewhat conspicuous instance.

We are not inclined to use any hard language on the subject, nor do we think that any hard language would be justified. The connivance of society can, no doubt, modify the import of an act of subscription, as well as of any other act of a public nature. But we do, in the name of veracity and justice, call for an immediate change of system. Such divorcement between public profession and private faith is fatal to religion, and fatal to truth. The Church in which it prevails is not a broad Church, but a Church of fraud and equivocation, grounded not on extensive toleration of differences, but on a pretended agreement, where no agreement really exists. It passes our imagination to conceive how the people can be expected to look to such a Church, or to the Universities which it monopolises, for guidance or for truth. And to this moral, suggested by Mr. JOWETT's affair, we will add another which it suggests with equal force. Laymen must boldly, though reverently, in-

investigate the grounds of religion for themselves, Mr. JOWETT's case shows that no clergyman—not even the strongest pietist and a man of the highest religious character and influence can venture so far to depart from ecclesiastical tradition and clerical forms of belief as to admit, even in such an age as the present, that God is not unjust.

POISON IN THE PRESCRIPTION.

"KNOWLEDGE is power" to do mischief as well as good, unless the knowledge be completed and consecrated by that which is the better part of knowledge, the simple inspiration of nature. Mere learning can teach men to forget their best instincts, although complete learning will bring them back to the better simplicity from which they started. "Useful knowledge" defeats itself, unless it be accompanied by the knowledge that is in the breast of every untaught child. It would seem from recent events as if civilisation could not invent protection half so fast as the means of destruction. Fortifications failed before the "*feu d'enfer*;" we preserve the peace in our towns at the expense, to judge by the present, of locking up discord in our families; we preserve outward morals, by covering up the unhealthy cankers of society; we discover tests for the detection of poisons, but not so fast as the poisons and their use. A BRINVILLIERS or a BORGIA is checked in brilliant wickedness, but a homely malignity finds a shelter under the veil of prudish propriety. The very regularity of our lives suggests a means for the malefactor to arrive at his purpose, just as the innumerable legal securities for the protection of money transactions furnish opportunities for the forger. The question of poisoning grows more interesting every week; recently we had the case of Mrs. WOOLER, who is pronounced to have been poisoned, though the culprit is undetected. This week, besides others of a minor kind, we have the case of Cook, who is poisoned, though the poisoner is unaccused. These were clumsy cases; they prove to us that the propensity for poisoning exists; but that, if there is an imperfect detection of the crime in these ill-concocted plots, we must not suppose no plots to exist and to succeed without detection.

In both these cases medicines were used, and several people had some hand in administering them. At once we perceive, that if medicines are taken for the cure of disease, a new opportunity is offered for the production of disease. A cunning hand can introduce poison into the daily dose, and suspicion may be excited; but, it appears the quiet of our civilisation is undermining the moral courage which makes men utter their suspicion. In both cases there was suspicion of poisoning; in both the suspicion was neglected; in both the victim died.

The evidence in one case appeared to be regarded as setting aside all suspicion, because there was proof of kindness. Now we do not intend to insinuate the slightest doubt with respect to Mr. WOOLER's innocence,—quite the reverse, we believe he was not guilty; but kindness is no disproof of poisoning. WAINWRIGHT, who killed his sister by slow poisoning in order to realise the insurance upon her life, was studiously kind and attentive. In fact, assiduous attendance is evidently an opportunity for the prisoner. A thousand ways might be suggested for placing poison in the same path with medicaments. One method is suggested by the last case. If a person acquainted with drugs knew that a medical man had prepared medicines for a patient, it would require very little sleight of hand to copy those medicines for all outward appearances, and to place deadly counterparts in their room. For example, an effervescing draught

and a couple of pills would constitute a very usual form of prescription for a bilious attack—the pills probably containing some form of mercury. What more easy than to make up poison into two pills—some powerful poison that acts suddenly? In such a case, evidence would be produced that two pills and a draught had been prescribed, delivered, and administered to the patient. If his natural tendency was to over-excitement and spasmodic vehemence, a drug increasing over-excitement and spasmodic vehemence would appear only like a remedy too weak for arresting the progress of a terrible disease. Give a medical man motives for getting rid of his patient, and it is clear that he has the man at his mercy. Without a metaphor, your medical man can always poison you if he chooses; and unless he is very clumsy—unless he fails to calculate the effect of the negative symptoms, he can poison you without detection.

The brother can poison the sister for the insurance which he has effected on her life; the husband can poison the wife, to be rid of her; the sister-in-law can poison the wife, to take her place; the boon companion can poison the sportsman, to obtain possession of the money in his pocket; the envious man can poison the successful, to be relieved of an odious comparison. We do not see where the counteractive lies. It might consist in a sense of religious responsibility; but religion had asserted its own infallibility with the force of such incredible dogmas, that it provoked contradiction, and we are only now emerging from a state of the world in which the influence of religion was entirely neutralised. Man can co-operate in the laws of the CREATOR, which give life; he can carry out the secondary laws which destroy life; and if unguided by a sense of religious responsibility he will use the destruction at his pleasure. There is, as we observed lately, one other influence to paralyse crime—it is affection. The babe is at the mercy of its mother, who can stifle it at any moment; the son can poison his father; the wife her husband; the physician his patient. It is natural instinct which makes us feel terror at the idea of death—anxiety to preserve the life of our fellow-creatures. For the few who have used their opportunities—who have been traitors to the sanctity of home or friendship, or professional trust—there are hundreds of thousands—millions, to whom such treachery is absolutely prohibited. This is the true safeguard—not the factitious detectives of science or law, which suggest their own deadly counterparts and evasions, and fail us as fast as they serve us. After all, then, our best trust is in the early, simple guarantees which were given to human nature at its birth. With them, civilisation is power; without them, it is corruption;—with them, it is redoubled life; without them, it is death.

THE SARDINIAN STATES:

THEIR HISTORY, GOVERNMENT, AND LAWS.

(From a Correspondent).

At Turin, in 1789, just as Charles Emmanuel had signed away the last vestige of his nominal power to the French, an heir to that throne which he should never more ascend, was born in Charles Albert, son of the Prince of Carignano, and a lineal descendant of Charles Emmanuel I. At his birth, no one could have divined his future rank. Charles Emmanuel IV. was still young, and might have sons; his brothers and the sons that they might have had still to reign. So the young Prince of Carignano was sent to be educated at Geneva and Paris, and at an early age received from Napoleon a commission in one of his regiments.

The thought, "*je serai Roi*," first flashed on Charles Albert in 1814, when the King of Sardinia abdicated, and brother succeeded brother, and

each was sonless. He too returned to Turin, and was soon surrounded by the patriots and liberals of the day, who, writhing with shame and indignation at the Austrian yoke, now in its first blush of insolent and brutal power, did concert, have done so ever since, and do so at this hour, schemes to crush that power, and break that yoke. We will enter here into no discussion of the merits or demerits of the *settle*, which it is now the custom to denounce so bitterly. Each time has its own needs, and gives birth to its own experiences. Unless we conclude that might is right; that because Austria has her butchers and slaughter-houses, Italians should be meek and dumb; it is vain to censure them for seizing on the only means within their reach of ridding themselves of the oppressor. That men should plot in England, or in Piedmont, where they may face God and man with their needs and wrongs, and obtain a certain, if tardy redress, would be absurd; but while French bayonets uphold the Papal throne; while the true heirs of Italian, Polish, and Hungarian soil, wander through the earth, with souls and bodies alike blasted, seeking vainly for justice and redress; while the blood-hounds, who have driven them thence, feast upon their spoil; plots, conspiracies, and revolts cannot cease. Let the tyrants who goad human souls beyond the pale of endurance, and the cowards who look on and enjoy the sport be made answerable for the result of their tyranny and cowardice. We know that too often the effort to snap a chain that chafes, rivets it closer; this is a bitter truth, containing matter for deep thought, whence vital lessons may be drawn. The exile patriot is but ill fitted for a physician. He is suffering too keenly from his own wounds: maddened by the groans and death struggles of his best ones; stifled by his very energies and talents, that find no space for utterance. Down on a level with all this, he clutches at the quickest remedy for the most painful wound; he has no power or time to rise above the whole; and studying each case, to judge what shall eradicate the disease from the vital part. This one-sidedness has been one of the great impediments to the recovery of Italian freedom in the years to which we now refer; but we have trust in the experience of the past, to furnish calmness and wisdom in the future. Assuredly, we have no sympathy with men who use these failures on the one hand, to taunt the Italians with their unfitness for, their indifference to, freedom; and on the other, as plausible arguments, to induce them to desist from any attempt to regain it.

It is difficult to say, how far Charles Albert was linked in with the schemes of the liberals, whose views with regard to himself, and whose general projects, were manifest to all. King of Sardinia thou shalt be, and King of Italy thou may'st become, was the prophecy for ever sounded in his ears. And by way of reconciling his conscience with his ambition, they represented to him how his influence might aid the then reigning king to realise the project so near to an Italian prince's heart. Let the Piedmontese army be but once arrayed against Austria, whose best troops and generals were engaged in Naples; let Lombardy be invaded, Italy revolutionised. What sceptre but that of Savoy could be chosen to rule the newly constituted kingdom, from which the foreigner had been expelled? Then the constitution which they demanded. Had not their brethren in principles wrested it from the perjured Kings of Spain? Had it cost much ado in Naples? Why should not Victor Emmanuel I. set on his subjects that seal of freedom which should enable them to go forth as heralds of national liberty; proclaiming him its champion, and in consequence, the fittest guardian thereof? It would be useless to deny that, from the age of sixteen, Charles Albert was aware that these were the principles and schemings of the liberal party. That cold, reserved, timid nature of his; the generous patriotic sentiments which, expressed by him from time to time, fed the hope that he would sanction their undertaking; his natural attachment to the throne of Savoy; his clinging to monarchical prerogatives which had often damped that hope; baffled the efforts of the liberals to come to a clear understanding as to what they might or might not expect from him. Their own testimony proves that he committed himself to no promise, no act. "We must do our best to keep the prince in our ranks," wrote one of the ringleaders, "but always mistrust him; for I do not believe he has sufficient elevation of soul to aid our schemes." "My

efforts to induce the prince to declare himself are useless," wrote another, later.

Both time and opportunity to declare himself were given to Charles Albert when, as we have shown above, Victor Emmanuel I., by no means elated, as his subjects professed to imagine he would be, with the chance of risking his hereditary throne for an Italian crown; refusing to govern at all, fettered by a constitution, that bugbear of absolutism, abdicated, and appointed Charles Albert regent in the absence of Charles Felix. Three courses were open to the Prince: accepting the regency, either to learn implicitly the policy of the absent king; or, to act on his own responsibility and fulfil the wishes of the people (a hazardous experiment); thirdly, to decline altogether the semblance of an authority which gave him no real power to act up to his principles or the dictates of his conscience. This latter course would have been the true one. Had Charles Albert told the subjects of Charles Felix, that while a constitution and an Austrian war were to him legitimate objects of demand (that he did consider them such was fully proved afterwards), he yet would not head a revolt against his lawful sovereign, all parties would have respected, even while some regretted, his scruples. But he chose neither such course. He accepted the regency; he granted the constitution, subject to the king's approval, and on the first announcement of that king's exceeding wrath at such proceedings, asserted that he had acted under compulsion, and that he would die in defence of the kingly interests entrusted to him. Too late! That exile into which Charles Albert must go, loaded with the king's wrath, amid the execrations of the liberal party, and the taunts of the Austrian to "the King of Italy," was but the foreshadowing of the bitter suffering by which he must atone for disobedience to the "earliest call."

Meanwhile, that the Piedmontese failed in obtaining their constitution in 1821 is by no means to be attributed to Charles Albert. The anger of the king, even his severe measures on his accession, would not have deterred them from their purpose, had they but been united in their decision as to whether their representative constitution should consist of one or two chambers. This question had been an open one from the beginning. That proclaimed by Charles Albert was to consist of one chamber, framed after the Spanish constitution of 1812, but when its repeal gave space for the renewal of the discussion, the leaders were so divided, and the mass of the people so dejected by the punishment of the first attempt, that the king, with Austrian support, had time and means to crush the whole struggle for the time being. Having done this, he relapsed into the apathetic, morose state that characterised him; shrank from any idea of reform, neglected the army, trusting to Austria to fight his battles, and with the exception of the care he bestowed on the navy, has no claim to be considered as a fair representative of that race of princes of whom he was the last in the direct line.

The reactionary gloom in Piedmont was by no means a fair specimen of the spirit rife in Italy. Though Santa Rosa failed to effect much, the struggle of his few brave troops, man to man with the Austrian myriads, was no less glorious. Though Austrian bayonets put down the revolt in Naples, these were no proofs that their sway was growing palatable to the Italians. That the weak governors of the Papal States were but the tools of the Imperial throne, did not justify them in the eyes of their subjects, their steady, continued resistance shows. The massive prison walls of Spielberg; that memorable 31st of August, 1825, which saw "five hundred and eight individuals" sentenced to death, exile, or imprisonment in the Papal States, bear witness to the deathless protest against tyranny and oppression. The revolutions of 1830 following upon each other's heels in France, Poland, and Hungary, served to revivify the liberals with a definite aim. Like most influences coming from without, it took the wrong direction. With Austria always for the target, more than one scheme was set on foot for replacing her sway by one or other of the Italian princes, without reference to their individual fitness. Strange that this time one should have been fixed on to whom Austria had assigned a very different part. This was the Duke of Modena, who had married a daughter of Victor Emmanuel I., and for whom his mother-in-law and the imperial court had entertained a hope of the Sardinian crown on the decease of Charles Felix. No baseness had been wanting to convince the king

of Charles Albert's rebellion, and to widen the breach between him and that prince, who having greatly distinguished himself in the Spanish wars, had returned to Piedmont, though not to the court. Unfortunately for Austria and her protégé (rather an ungrateful one) his plots for himself, or others' plots for him, joined to the universal detestation in which he was held, had hurled this Duke of Modena from his throne, and the imperial patrons winking for reasons of their own, at his delinquencies, were doing their best to replace him, when Charles Felix, having completed his tomb at Hautecombe, before retiring to it, called Charles Albert to his bed-side, and resigned to his keeping his sceptre and his people!

What would the young king have given for a clear, spotless past, to which to point and say—"Trust in me, my people, your welfare is my sole aim, your enemies are mine, we will combat them together, only have patience, the moment is not yet come." He did attempt to convince them of this by the liberal measures, the desire for reforms, which he manifested immediately on his accession. It was not enough for all. The young disciples of "Young Italy," in their first flush of hope and untried strength, must have palpable, tangible proofs that their ideas of the right and best course to set Italy free would be carried out to the uttermost and instantly. Mazzini, deeply imbued with the warnings and predictions of Foscology, became to the enthusiasts their leader and their idol. He called loudly to Charles Albert to proclaim war there and then to Austria; pleaded eloquently the nation's sorrows, and the grand position their redressor might assume. The cautious prince pointed to the French expedition to Ancona; to the Austrian troops in Lombardy; to his own neglected and impoverished army, as potent reasons why the undertaking was for the time impossible.

Mazzini could admit of no impossibility; prudence seemed to him cowardice, and delay hypocrisy. No dispassionate student of the first outpourings of that young genius can withhold from Mazzini the homage which such genius claims. Pure patriotism, free in those days from all personal ambition, stamped his every thought. Could the daring poet and the prudent Savoy Prince have gone hand in hand; the one compelling the timid acts of the other, who in turn would have reined in the too theoretical soarings of his counsellor, what might not have been the result to Italy! How could a man of Mazzini's intellect have adopted the course he took, when finding that the king would not rule at his bidding, would not lead the army at his beck, the poet flung aside the pen and resolved to become ruler and general all in one! Fatal irremediable error. To think that a handful of malcontents, with two men at their head, neither of whom knew anything of organisation or generalship, could revolutionise Italy from the Alps downward, upset the thrones of foreign and native princes alike, and establish one vast united republic! Never did such a wild or impossible scheme issue from the brains of the *sette* of any name or nation. When we hear that Ramorino betrayed, and Mazzini fainted as he strove to lead on his band, we cannot but feel more pity for the misled volunteers than for their leaders; and this leads us to wonder at the unwarrantable, vindictive severity shown in the sentences passed by Charles Albert on all engaged, or suspected of being engaged, in the attempt.

It was a bad omen for the commencement of his reign—the bloodshed and proscriptions that followed; and some time elapsed before the king felt his way sufficiently into the hearts of his subjects, to carry on those reforms which he had promised and meant to effect. Soon, however, the recall of some of the exiles—the promulgation of such works as Balbo's "Hopes of Italy," and Gioberti's more expedient measures revived hope and confidence. Free institutions answered the people's growing demand; freedom was permitted, if not granted, to the press; a new code of laws was compiled in 1837; literature was encouraged, and the industrial arts received attention. Associations for "agriculture," "arts and antiquities," and "history," were vigorously set on foot; so that, while dissatisfaction and revolt were manifest throughout the Papal and Austrian States, progress and growing content were visible in Piedmont. Austria, beside herself with rage, launched scoffs at the reforms, and slanders at the character of her northern neighbour in vain. Finding this useless,

she added outrage to insult, in the form of increased import duty on Sardinian wines, to which measure the king made firm resistance.

Close on this act followed the death of old Gregory, and the accession of Pius IX., whose manifesto of amnesty, published the day after his accession, was used as a weapon for warfare he never desired to bring upon himself. Mingling with the welcomings of this amnesty, it was whispered that a cry of "War to the foreigner" was heard. Austria was wrathful that the Pope did not notice this. At Genoa, also, there were wild celebrations of the centenary anniversary of the expulsion of the Austrians from the Ligurian soil. All the Italian cities who dared, signalled the same exploit throughout the country, by "bonfires at night upon the Appenines; a symbol of the flame of patriotism which was smouldering beneath the gloom of servitude to the stranger." Austria stormed, as the meaning of all this became apparent. The Pope was wilfully blind; though papers, published in his state, spoke of the "Imperial gangs." Tricolor flags floated in Tuscany, in acknowledgment of a constitution and a civic guard, granted by weak Leopold II.

Affronts, offered by the Austrians to the Pope, brought him and Charles Albert together upon common ground. Quiet and cold as the Sardinian king ever was, the gloom and vacillation that had characterised him seemed to have given place to a hopeful fixed resolve. At length he announced to his subjects, and the subjects of other states, gathered together at a scientific association—"If Providence shall ordain a war for the independence of Italy, I will mount on horseback with my sons; will place myself at the head of my army; for glorious will be the day whose war-cry shall be 'Italian Nationality!'"

How Italy leapt up to hear those words; then paused in admiration at the deeds that followed them. Charles Albert, "having first relaxed the bonds of the press, cancelled the fiscal exemptions; improved the arrangements for the administration of justice; deprived the police of that power which is termed economic, but really signifies uncontrolled discretion; enlarged and amended the Council of State; founded on a broader basis the institution of provincial and divisional councils; emancipated the communes; and invigorated those bodies with the vivifying element of popular election."

Like wild-fire spread the sentiment of nationality. Ambassadors from the Papal and Tuscan States met at Turin, to discuss the Commercial and Customs League. Naples wrung from her coward king her reforms and constitution; and even Austrian subjects sung the praises of Pius and Charles Albert, with the bayonets within sight. The Lombards abstained from the use of tobacco, to damage the imperial finances; and yet, says Farini:—"Austria thought that the stir in Italy was mere sham, to be combated in the usual classical manner of her police. For the books and journals, her astounding remedy was the censorship; for the spirit of freedom, the gaol; and for the spirit of independence, the bayonet."

Italy was, in the words of Prince Metternich, "an empty name; it was geography, not history, not life, nor a living nation."

So the year 1847 drew to a close.

PHILOSOPHY OF ANOMALY.

THE British public and the British press are just at present being greatly scandalised, almost indignant, with Prince Albert. We have had that state of things before—thrice. We are all very partial to the Prince; but it is our peculiarity to patronise—and the fact of patronage includes the privilege to be out of humour now and then with the *protégé*—those whom we most respect and are most in awe of. We Britons are rather proud of ourselves; but was ever nation so self-abused? The glory of our constitution, and the perfection of our institutions, are notorious; but when was it that we did not grumble? The Prince has no right to complain: the price of popularity in this country is to be every now and then terribly out of favour; and, on the whole, these characteristic British reactions are very advantageous to British personages. Aristides is in our black books for a little while every year, and so we do not get tired of him. Let his Royal Highness be persuaded that his position is all the safer for being now and then assailed.

The Prince has been committing an anomaly; he, Prince Consort, with marital authority, has been, as officer of the Guards, in company with the whole

corps, memorialising the Queen respecting certain military regulations. This is the offence of the Prince. Whether he is right or wrong, as a matter of logic and fairness, in the prayer of the memorial, is not the question; even a Prince Consort is not expected to be infallible, and we are not entitled to be very angry should he happen to be very much in the wrong. What vexes us is the anomaly. That is what we cannot endure. We are utterly unused to that. To be sure there are some odd things in the constitution. A Sovereign without power; a State Church which here only embraces half the population, and, in Ireland, not a third of the population; born legislators; a House of Commons, which represents but a small quota of the people; free and independent burghesses, and most of the elections conducted by corruption; a City of London corporation, which has nothing to do with seven-eighths of London; field-marshal who never saw a shot fired in anger, or out of the Park—field-marshal incapable of taking the field. Why, it is rather an anomaly to pay a Prince on becoming the husband of the Queen, who has no power. It is rather an anomaly to have a Prince Consort, paid on becoming the husband of the Queen, refusing to pay taxes on his farms, taking Rangerhips of Parks which he seldom sees and never superintends, and becoming colonel of regiments which never saw him; such sinecures—and the word sinecure, not strange to English ears, even in these days, suggesting anomaly—being reserved generally for old and worn-out and highly meritorious, and not otherwise greatly over-paid public servants, civilians and soldiers. But we are a practical people. Human nature is an anomaly, and English affairs are anomalous; and we don't tease ourselves about symmetries and theories when we find a thing works. The British constitution works; therefore we are content with the British constitution.

Why not be as unscrupulous, and display as much common sense in respect to the Prince Consort? His Royal Highness is a magnificent anomaly, an *alter ego* means the preternatural; and we ought to make the best of him, in the English way.

A Prussian ambassador to this country once said: "When I was in England a month I thought of writing a book about her; when I had stayed six months I saw that that would not be very easy; and when I had been there a year I saw that I could say nothing positively, for that it was rather a difficult country to understand." How we must puzzle Prince Albert! Let us consider his experiences, and we shall find that the wonder is not that he is found memorialising the Queen on the subject of Guards' privileges, but that he is not ruling at the Horse Guards, and, as chief there, besides being as *alter ego* of the Sovereign, *titre d'armes*, establishing his will without reference to 'Line' opinion, or public opinion. The concessions made to him have been such that had he been less strong minded and less sensible than he is, they would have enabled him without noise, without obtrusion, and almost without notice, to have altered the character of the English Monarchy, and made Queen Victoria what William the Third was—her own Foreign Minister, and her own Commander-in-Chief.

His three moving periods of unpopularity have been under these circumstances. A fussy Lord Mayor in 1852, backed by a popular bishop, proposed a statue to Prince Albert, to be paid for by public subscription, to be erected in some part of the metropolis not less conspicuous than that disfigured by the Nelson column, and to be considered as the commemorative monument of the Great Exhibition of 1851, the whole credit and merit of which were unreservedly assigned to the Prince by his too good natured friends. The suggestion was a silliness as respected the Prince, and was an impertinence to the public. But what happened? Several thousand pounds were rapturously subscribed, the list being headed by those chief men of his nation who ought to have been guardians of public decency and the first to check these personal pretensions of private power. The Prince declined the premature demi-divinity, after undergoing a hurricane of praise from public meetings and a storm of abuse from public papers. His next misfortune was, to be found out in the fact that he assisted the Queen in supervising Foreign Office correspondence, and that, generally, he was at her side when she transacted business with her ministers. The roar of the press and especially of the liberal press,—aghost, on democratic grounds at this interference of the crown with the oligarchy when the discovery had been fully elaborated, was terrifying, and the Prince seems to have called the Whigs to the rescue, and, while awaiting a constitutional definition of his rights, to have abandoned his wife—so far, according to the old constitutional court law in divorce cases, allowing his privilege to lapse, with disuse. Lord John Russell in one House, and Lord Aberdeen in the other, with Lord Campbell to edit them both, freed the clamour, admitted the whole case, and rather complacently and incitingly complimented the Prince on being content with functions so limited. What resulted? The clamour died away: the Prince, con-

ceding nothing, encouraged to advance in his constitutional approaches, had gained his point; and, then, most princes would have taken care to turn Whig politeness to account, and annihilated something of the Dogship of the British Monarchy. Yet there are no signs that he has altered our system, and the facility with which the Queen gave up the happy coalition which her husband was supposed to have been chiefly instrumental in forming, suggests that his Royal Highness' temper and temperament had not been spoiled either by popular inconsistencies or by administrative adulation. On the next occasion of his appearance before the incoherent public tribunal, he had made a speech at the Trinity House. Lord Palmerston, not yet staid into his seat, was struggling with military confusion in the Crimea and popular chaos in Parliament; and the Prince, with considerate kindness to a new friend, pointed out that a constitutional state carrying on war stands in need of great patience and much endurance on the part of the people, since during war absolutism was rather the best form of government. At the moment, this was perhaps a general notion among the unreflecting mass of the public, and the Prince, only checked here and there, was warmly applauded for his outspokenness. Again he appears to have resisted the temptation. Never was a Parliament more unruly than Lord Palmerston's last session; and yet the Prince kept his fingers off the bauble, and Mr. Levesque is calmly on his way to a Peerage. A Prince who has had encouragements of this kind, and avails himself of none of them, is not likely knowingly to step beyond his proper functions or exceed his just rights when a deputation from the Guards' club waits upon him, to state their grievances and solicit their brother officer to co-operate with them. Did the public which did not disapprove of his taking a regiment on Wellington's death, expect him to discard all the duties of his new position, and to resolve to abnegate *esprit de corps*? The Prince was wise and honest enough to refuse Wellington's offer—and Wellington in that day could have carried it—of the Horse Guards, and doubtless calculated that the country would not grudge him a colonelcy, with all the duties thereto appertaining.

The public and the Prince must take the consequences of anomalousness in their relations, and be prepared for collisions of this character. When they occur, the public and the press will show most self-respect by not exaggerating the importance of the point in dispute. A "facetious contemporary" naturally takes advantage of the fuss to jeer at the anomaly itself, and to suggest that a field-marshal who never was in the wars, had best pocket his pay, and leave military matters alone. But leading journals should not copy facetious contemporaries. Leading journals do not want to get rid of the anomaly, and therefore must encourage it as best they can.

NON-ELECTOR.

Open Council.

[IN THIS DEPARTMENT, AS ALL OPINIONS, HOWEVER EXTREME, ARE ALLOWED AN EXPRESSION, THE EDITOR NECESSARILY HOLDS HIMSELF RESPONSIBLE FOR NONE.]

There is no learned man but will confess he hath much profited by reading controversies, his senses awakened, and his judgment sharpened. If, then, it be profitable for him to read, why should it not, at least, be tolerable for his adversary to write?—MILTON.

WHAT SHALL WE GAIN BY THE WAR? (To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—Let us now consider the question of the war with Russia, and its probable results from the same point of view as that taken by the hot-blooded section of the War Party, comprising men who heartily sympathise with the cause of freedom, and hope, by the humiliation of Russia, to effect the emancipation of oppressed communities, and down-trodden nationalities.

But, in addition to sympathy with the oppressed, there is prevalent in many minds an indignation against Russia, as against some monstrous prodigy of cruelty and crime. Doubtless, great historical crimes do lie at the door of Russia, and if nations are to be deemed amenable to human justice in the same manner as individuals, punishment may be righteously inflicted on the present population of Russia. But few, however, who can reason on this subject without hysterical excitement, will maintain that one generation should be punished for the crimes of the one that has preceded it, or that a whole population should be subjected to every species of misery in order that some reflected rays of that misery may faintly fall upon the heads of their guilty rulers. There is no doubt that the object of dwelling upon the crimes of Russia is to foment the martial excitement of the English people. Cool motives of self-interest, and even earnest wishes for the deliverance of the oppressed inhabitants of mis-governed countries might not avail to stir up the hearts of the multitude. An

effusion of hatred is needed to raise the excitement to blood heat. In some measure, then, to counteract this influence, and remove the question of the war from the regions of passion and resentment, it may be well to call to mind that Russia, in endeavouring to overflow its original boundaries, obeyed the common instincts of semi-civilized tribes occupying ungenial and sterile districts which lie contiguous to such as are mild and fruitful. The aggressive tendency of Russia is not then wantonly malignant—it is merely vulgarly selfish. We ourselves, proud as we are of our civilisation, have condescended to pursue the same policy wherever it seemed to be worth our while. Let us divest our minds of the childish, hobgoblin notion of Russia, so anxiously propagated by weak or excitable minds. Russia is not demoniacal, she is simply human. Certain territories are likely to prove useful to her. She endeavours to clutch them. If we think that her doing so will be prejudicial to our own safety, we are warranted in crying "Hands off!" and enforcing our exclamation, if requisite, by as heavy a blow as we can manage to give her. But to preach a crusade against Russia as against some common enemy of mankind, is ridiculous. Her vices are European, and, let us add, her power for mischief by no means formidable. She is neither to be detested nor dreaded, as some would have us believe. France has overrun Europe, and might possibly do so again, particularly when Russia shall be reduced to the requisite degree of prostration. But Russia failed even to penetrate into Bulgaria, though opposed only by the rude soldiery of a nation more barbarous than herself. This is one reason why I maintain that Russia is not to be dreaded. Why she is not to be detested I have partly shown, and must add that, whatever may be her deficiencies, it is not for us who blandly permitted the atrocities of Juggernaut, who winked at widow-burning, who pocketed a revenue extorted, as recent evidence has shown, in many instances, by torture, it is not for us to throw the first stone at her government and her people.

Having said this much in explanation rather than in defence of Russia's aggressive policy, let us dispassionately consider how the cause of freedom can be advanced by the indefinite warfare we are now waging against that power.

Who is the prime mover in the present war? Napoleon III. Who holds the reins?—who is master of the situation? Napoleon III. Who has reaped the greatest benefits from the war, and who can and will stop that war the moment it ceases to be beneficial to him? Napoleon III. Now, if our heartfelt wish is to encourage and uplift the crushed communities of Europe, it is of vital importance to ascertain what are the opinions, and what the real interests of this extraordinary man, who, thanks to the policy of this country, now stands supreme amidst the sovereigns of Europe, and dictates peace or war according to his own will, and with reference simply to his own immediate interests. Let him speak for himself. He announces himself to be the apostle of order. Change "Varsovie" for "Paris" and we may say, "L'ordre regne en Paris." "Facit solitudinem pacem appellat." He plants an armed heel upon the neck of the French nation, and exclaims with dignity, "L'Empire c'est la paix!" Perhaps, for the time being, he was the only safeguard against Red Republicanism; perhaps he was a necessary evil, a grim, inevitable nuisance, like the family apothecary, or the confidential solicitor. Perhaps the law of self-preservation urged him on, and still instigates his every movement. With this I have nothing to do. The fact remains the same that Louis Napoleon is a despot. He rose by despotism, he reigns by despotism, he lives by despotism. It is his interest to sustain the spirit of despotism throughout the whole globe. Each vibration of freedom, however far off from France, shakes the Imperial throne. It is with the Emperor a matter of life and death that the established authorities throughout Europe should remain sacredly intact. The case, then, stands thus:—A despot is the prime mover in the present war. A despot holds the reins, and is master of the situation. A despot has reaped the greatest benefits from the war, and can stop that war the instant it ceases to be beneficial to him. Now, when will the war cease to be beneficial to him? Clearly at the precise moment when it commences to be beneficial to the cause of freedom. For instance: the war is certainly unpopular in many parts of France. So soon as that unpopularity begins to excite a feeling of impatient disgust, dangerous to the stability of the Imperial regime, Napoleon will make peace. So soon as the disturbing influences of war manifestly begin to permeate through the masses on the Continent, at present restrained by the vigour of despotic governments, and mischief appears to be brewing, Napoleon will make peace. So soon as there is an opening for nationalities to rise, and the hour and the man draw near, Napoleon will make peace. Need I say more to prove that so far as the cause of freedom is concerned, the war with Russia is a mockery and a sham? I am, sir, faithfully yours,

Dec. 17, 1855.

ARTHUR H. ELTON.

THEORY OF CONSUMPTION.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—If an Irishman, now, like myself, were to review, or propose to review, a book which he had not at hand to refer to, as Dr. Balbairnie does by mine, we should set it down to that peculiar obfuscation of intellect for which my dear countrymen so often obtain credit. Let Dr. Balbairnie sustain his theories as he is able. I desire to fling no discredit on him or them. He has, however, mis-stated, or rather understated, my own views. This is doubtless through inadvertence, or rather the singular pretension of reviewing a work without taking the trouble to look at it—a feat which even you, Mr. Editor, with all your critical experience, would find it difficult to emulate. At page 23 of my work on Consumption occurs a passage which embodies my presumed discovery:—

"An imperfect respiratory process fails to purify and renew the blood, which, thus loaded with excretions and foulnesses, has, as it were, no alternative but to deposit them as tubercles, with all their consequent train of evils, in the different tissues."

The detritus of the tissues cannot possibly be got entirely rid of so long as respiration is conducted in foul air. This detritus accumulates in the cleansing vessels or veins, passes into the arteries, and finally, as I have said, unless happily eliminated, is deposited as tuberculous matter throughout the frame. The inadequacy of a vitiated atmosphere to purify the blood, and the identity of tuberculous matter with the waste and dead excretions, I have fully pointed out elsewhere.

This briefly I claim as my discovery in phthisis and the cognate maladies—a discovery which brings the theory of consumption within the pale of natural science, tears the disease out of the hands of empiricism, promises immunity to the myriads whom feasting rottenness and premature decay now hurry to the tomb.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

HENRY McCORMAC, M.D.,
Consulting Physician
to the Belfast General Hospital.

Belfast, Dec. 12, 1855.

WHAT WOULD THE LATE SIR ROBERT PEEL HAVE DONE—WITH THE BANK OF ENGLAND?

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—What would the late Sir Robert Peel have done? is a question which has already in more than one case been asked and answered—but not hitherto, so far as I am aware, has the very natural question been propounded—What would the late Sir Robert Peel have done with the Bank of England?

To that question the following is the answer: it was his conviction that the Bank of England ought to be separated from the State, and this, had he lived, it would have been one of the objects of his life to effect.

My authority for this statement is Mr. John McGregor, M.P., who communicated it to me in the course of an interview I had with him in London not long after Sir Robert Peel's death. That interview was sought by him with the object of inducing me to become trustee of a New Bank it was at that time proposed to establish in London; and thus it was the conversation took this turn.

The conclusion as to the necessity of this separation I had already derived from intercourse with my accomplished friend and neighbour, Thomas Doubleday, and from reading in MS. his interesting Financial History of England (since published by Edinburg Wilson); and I had moreover been led to suspect this conclusion in the mind of Sir Robert Peel from remarkable passages in some of his speeches, indicating the terror in which he lived as to the action of the Bank of England.

I therefore took the opportunity of questioning Mr. McGregor on the subject, and his reply was emphatic and distinct; that had Sir R. Peel lived, it would have been an object with him to have separated the Bank of England from the State, and to this he had looked forward. Of this circumstance, so distinct is my recollection, that I am prepared to make affidavit of it.

I give publicity to it, in the hope of thus stimulating inquiry, and in the full conviction that, as in the connection of the Bank of England with the State originated the National Debt, and all our financial disorders; so in the dissolution of that connection is to be sought the only source of remedy.

G. CHAWSHAY.

Gateshead, Dec. 19th, 1855.

INDIA—SUBSIDIARY STATES.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—The article in the last *Leader* has none of the hazy style of the late Mr. Chapman, to whom, on his death, you stated the *Leader* was indebted for much on Indian subjects. There is no mistaking your intention; for a long, and somewhat vituperative, article is closed by hoping Lord Canning will annex

the states spared by the present Governor-General; and yet Lord Dalhousie annexed or conquered the Punjab, Nagpore, Sattarah, and Pegu, to say nothing of minor states, nor of those he would have annexed, such as Kurrowly, had he been permitted.

The subsidiary treaties with native states, entered into by the Governors-General Wellesley and Hastings, were, at the time, thought admirable strokes of policy, earning for the named noble lords a "material guarantee" from the soil of India, though disburbed by the East India Company. By those treaties we pledged ourselves to perpetual friendship, never to look with the eye of covetousness on the possessions of our allies, which, generation to generation, we guaranteed them to. Have we, Sir, in the cases of Sattarah and Nagpore, fulfilled our pledge, kept our name unsoiled?—or have we made it synonymous with falsehood in the mind of every native, and many Europeans, in India? Falsehood is a strong word, yet applicable, but to it the native, who deprecates the gradual extinction of all nationality, would add the word "craven;" for he says we first induced the Princes to disband their French and other mercenaries, promising to supply their place—that we, in every instance, received a large accession of territory for the troops to be thus substituted—that, when strong enough, we first questioned the propriety of giving the services of the force thus entertained—and that we finished by employing those very troops to overawe the ally in the first instance, concluding with the absorption of the ally's territory, already occupied by the troops he had handsomely paid us for retaining as a contingent to uphold him and his successors, according to treaty and promise.

And such a view of the case I contend is a correct one, borne out by history, gainsay it who may. We have increased our territories and our revenue, but at what a cost? No native of India thinks that, as a government, we are other than perfidy itself. When weak we cringed to them, but in power we cast aside the mask, and appeared in our true colours—a people devoid of truth, a race that would do aught for gain. They know we mercilessly, and with malice aforethought, sacrificed their manufacturers, by prohibiting customs when we had acquired all the harbours, and allowed them not to trade with other nations; and they know, too, that our steam-manufactured goods were admitted to India almost free of customs. Think you, Sir, that the native of India sees not that all worth having in situations we keep to ourselves—that the act of Parliament, as to there being no distinction of colour, creed, or caste, was a practical lie, or that he believes not there must be a deep subsoil of hypocrisy and assumption in the civilisation and Christianity that would set itself up as perfection compared to them; while we cared but for turning the hour to the best advantage, no matter at what cost, the inheritance of him whose offspring we by treaty pledged ourselves to uphold, and for which we were paid—or the entire manufacturers of the land that we might benefit those of our own civilised and Christian island.

The Rev. Mr. Kingsley is reported to have said, in a lecture on Mahomedanism lately, at Edinburgh, that he hoped the day was not far distant when the Moslem would no longer have grounds for saying, "There is a devil—in fact, there are many devils—but none equal to an European, in a round black hat." In one sense we have played the winning game in India, and I feel certain the game will not be played out until we absorb all. Titles and pensions, aided by the press and missionaries, will do the deed; and we here, Sir, will rejoice at after-dinner speeches on the growing prospects of peoples and nationalities.

Allow me to recommend to your perusal "Shore's Letters on India," and "Bishop Heber's Journal," though our affairs are now much better managed than they used to be when these works appeared; and, regarding our respect for treaties, any chapter where one is involved you will, in the death-dealing tribes, as Blackwood said of James Mill, find abundance to bear out the view entertained of our honour by the people of India. In the chapter referring to Bhurtpoor you will see, by the continuation to the work by Professor Wilson, you are quite wrong.

Religious discord in Oude, say you? Why, is there none elsewhere—none in Europe—and has none existed for three hundred years in this country and in Ireland? I am not palliating; but I do not, therefore, approve of your making the circumstance a handle whereon to build an annexation article.

The cause of the attack on Brigadier Mackenzie is sufficiently well known to be a necessary result of his insulting language to the Mahomedans. He is an European—a civilised Christian, very desirous of "saving souls." His indiscretion is covered by his wounds; but a native, under like circumstances, would be dismissed the service.

As for the murder of Mr. Conolly, the Mapthals, at whose hands he suffered, are, and have ever been, a ruthless race, I believe. They should be disarmed as the Saiks and Scindees were.

I have lived much in native states, and I declare to you my firm belief that the people, on the whole, are

more satisfied and happy than they are under our own sway; and this I say after many years' residence in India, holding official appointments both in native states and our own much-lauded provinces. By your insertion or otherwise of this letter I shall be enabled to judge of your impartiality. If you insert it I shall ask the favour of a place for more letters on the same subject.

AN OLD INDIAN.

[We trust that our correspondent will conform to our rule of brevity in any future letter he may desire to see inserted in our columns. The most generous impartiality cannot find space for inordinately long communications, to the sacrifice of other matters of equal interest to our readers.]

PEACE AND WAR.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—Your correspondent, "Arthur H. Elton," deserves credit for the very ingenious and original expedient by which he proposes to put an end to the present war. Certainly, nothing can be more simple than for the Allied armies to retire from the field of battle, and thus, by ceasing to fight, to obtain a peace. To ensure the success of this very simple project, however, it is necessary that the Russians should be equally content to retire from the scene of hostilities, simultaneously with Generals Pelissier and Codrington. It is usually held that there must be two parties to a peace, as to a war; and, unless Sir A. Elton can assure us that the Russians will reciprocate our pacific dispositions, he will hardly persuade the Allies to run away from the field of battle.

Setting aside the minor considerations of honour and glory, as matters not comprehended in the philosophy of a peace apostle, let me be permitted to point out to Sir A. Elton the chief impediment to the success of his scheme, viz., the extreme improbability that the Russians, struck by the magnanimity of our retreat, will emulate our forbearance, and for ever refrain from the rights of aggression. Are we to believe that we can secure by flight that which we have been unable to achieve by fighting—or that our retreat is to effect what our victories have failed to produce—"the humiliation of our enemies?" Sir A. Elton declares that Russia "now knows our strength, and recognises her comparative weakness." But what evidence have we that Russia has arrived at this knowledge? What has happened, in the course of this war, to impress Russia with any newer or higher idea of our strength, and any clearer conviction of her own weakness? The utmost efforts of the two greatest and most enlightened nations of the world have been for two years directed against the single barbarian power of the North; and yet, what have we done, in that interval, to prove our high superiority? It is true Sebastopol is in ruins, but at what cost to us, and with what fruits? That siege, if it has proved anything, has proved the indomitable valour, the fertile genius, and the admirable discipline of our barbarian enemy, and has exhibited his superiority to us in every military qualification, except mere animal courage. The siege of Sebastopol will be, to history, an illustration not of our strength but of our weakness. As for the other achievements of the Allies, they are too insignificant to be matter of congratulation to them, or of discouragement to the enemy. In short, we have done nothing by which Russia may form a higher notion of our prowess than she doubtless entertained before she commenced this war; and, entertaining it, did not fear to provoke our hostility. It is preposterous to assert, therefore, that Russia only waits the retreat of our own armies to withdraw from the prize she has so long courted and still courts. It is probable, indeed, that she would not immediately renew her attempts in Turkey; but who shall guarantee us, in the event of a present peace, against a revival of Russian ambition, and another crossing of the Pruth? And who shall ensure us, in the next Russian war, a second Anglo-Gallic alliance?

Sir, I am no thick-and-thin supporter of the present war. There is nothing in it, indeed, that I approve, except its object, and the necessity of pursuing that object to a definite and honourable end. The alliance with France I regard as a political necessity—not as an unmixed good. It is a necessity which must for the present override the claims of the nationalities; nor do I think that any greater mischief can be done to the cause of Hungary and Poland, than by a peace under present circumstances, and especially such a peace as Sir Arthur H. Elton recommends—a peace which demands the unconditional retreat of our soldiers from the field of battle, which leaves the Crimes in the hands of Russia, and the Principalities in the keeping of Austria.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
H. E. W.

THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.—Several provincial and metropolitan tradesmen have determined to give their assistants a holiday from this (Saturday) night till the morning of Wednesday the 26th; thus allowing three whole days for repose and recreation.

Literature.

Critics are not the legislators, but the judges and police of literature. They do not make laws—they interpret and try to enforce them.—*Edinburgh Review*.

THE two events of the week are the publication of MACAULAY's long-talked-of volumes, and the death of SAMUEL ROGERS; both of them, in a certain sense, historical events; for ROGERS, the contemporary of JOHNSON, ALFIERI, and GOETHE, carries our thoughts back into the eighteenth century. He was twenty years old when the great SAMUEL died; he came into the world when GOETHE was setting out for the university of Leipsic, and SCHILLER was making mud-pies at school. Does it not seem strange to think we have sat at table with a man who was the contemporary of JOHNSON? And yet, apart from his verses, ROGERS belonged to this age. He will form a figure in its literary history. His friendships alone will immortalise him. His breakfasts are historical; and the cunning hand of the admirable JAMES DOYLE has fixed those breakfasts on canvas, in a companion picture to his well-known "Literary Club," where JOHNSON, GOLDSMITH, REYNOLDS, BEAUCLERC, BOSWELL, and the rest, look at us "in their habits as they moved."

As a poet, ROGERS can hardly be expected to gain much attention; but, as a man, he was a distinguished figure in our nineteenth century. He was charitable, fond of society, fond of telling stories—sometimes startling the severe proprieties of *les collets montés* by the grave deliberate narration of events which a younger man dared not have touched—famous for blunt repartees which had the force of wit, a judge of pictures, and a lover of lions. If he has written memoirs, what a fund of anecdote may be found in them!

MACAULAY's volumes are already in the hands of thousands. Monday, the 17th of December, must have been a harassing day to librarians. How did NAPOLEON-MUDIE contrive to despatch his two thousand seven hundred and fifty copies to eager subscribers? The *Times* has already been columnar in analysis. Our contemporaries will, doubtless, to-day sit in judgment on the work. We cannot achieve such feats of rapid reading. If next week we are in a condition to report on two such volumes, the reader will, is hoped, applaud our diligence, and console himself for the tardiness of our article by the reflection that greater haste would have been worse speed: "slowly and sure; they boggle who read fast." We say that for ourselves, not for more rapid contemporaries. Young ladies gallop through a couple of novels in the time we should take to read one volume; and they know as much probably at the end of their steeple-chase as we do at the end of our more leisurely ride: we envy their faculty, though we cannot imitate it.

But if we can say nothing yet of MACAULAY, let us not forget to record our delight in DICKENS's last story. The Christmas number of the *Household Words* is surely the most incomparable threepenny-worth of literature ever presented to a reading public. Besides a strange retrospect of inns, and a stage-coach ride in the snow, done in DICKENS's peculiar manner, there is a little story told by the Boots of the Inn about a love affair and elopement (the lovers being eight and seven years old respectively) in which the very flower of DICKENS's genius displays itself. It has marvellous truth, humour, fancy, and freedom from all touch of exaggeration. Although a subject which almost irresistibly lends itself to exaggeration, there is no trace of the fault in this story. It reads like a fairy tale, and this because its congruity is so perfect, and its substance so remote from ordinary life. No one could have written such a story but DICKENS; and he has never written anything so faultless. If such a gem had come down to us from the wrecks of ancient literature, it would have immortalised its author. This praise may sound excessive to those who have not read the story. Let them read it, and if they know children, and love the subtleties of art, they will not think our praise too high.

In the same number there is one other story, which, on internal evidence, we pronounce to be by the hand which chronicled the "Monktons of Wincot Abbey," but it is even finer than that flesh-creeping story. It is the "Ostler's Story," and its treatment of the supernatural is something unique both as to invention and conduct. It produced such an effect on us, that two or three nights after reading it we dreamt of it, and dreamt that WILKIE COLLINS was explaining to us how he came to invent the main incident:—"It was," he said, "a conviction of his that every idea which takes strong possession of the mind has a tendency to realise itself in fact." In our dream we thought this creative force of mind—this power of impressing circumstance with mental forms—a novel and profound truth. In our waking moments we may suggest to the writer that some such theory would give completeness to his story, and take away something of the unsatisfactoriness which must belong to an unexplained mystery.

HIMALAYAN JOURNALS.

Himalayan Journals. Notes of a Naturalist in Bengal, the Sikkim and Nepal Himalayas. By Joseph Dalton Hooker, M.D., R.N., F.R.S. A New Edition. In Two Volumes. John Murray.

STIMULATED, rather than dismayed, by the perilous adventures he had encountered, as the companion of Sir James Ross, in the frozen seas of the Antarctic regions, Dr. Hooker resolved, in preference to a life of ignoble

ease, to wend his way in pursuit of science to tropical lands hitherto untrodden by traveller or naturalist. Little or nothing was then known of the physical geography of the Sikkim Himalayas, though immediately adjacent to Bengal, and for many years under British protection. This circumstance alone would have sufficed to prompt such a zealous student of nature to undertake the task of adding a new chapter to our knowledge of the external world; but he was confirmed in his purpose by the representations of Lord Auckland and Dr. Falconer, the Superintendent of the H.E.I.C. Botanic Garden, at Calcutta. The result fully answered his most sanguine expectations, for nowhere could the many interesting phenomena of mountain scenery be studied on a more complete or stupendous scale. A bounteous Flora clothed the valleys and hill-sides with a rich and varied vegetation. At certain elevations forest trees of primeval stateliness displayed a lightness and elegance of foliage, of which the inhabitants of a northern climate can form but a faint conception. The strange and beautiful family of Orchids here flourish in such variety and perfection that, in comparison, they can nowhere else be said to grow. Immediately below the line of eternal snow alpine flowers of every hue nestle amid the crumbling rocks, themselves covered by an endless profusion of ferns, mosses, and lichens. The geologist, again, may gaze with admiration on the vestiges of unceasing mutation. He beholds immense boulders of gneiss or granite rounded by the action of restless waters, and extensive moraines deposited by melting icebergs drifting southwards from a glacial sea. Of metals and minerals useful in human economy he will find, indeed, but few traces; but where else can he hope to obtain an equal initiation into the mysteries of nature, and the manner of her workmanship? To him who worships the sublime and the beautiful in their noblest inanimate forms, the Himalayas afford amplest subject for grateful homage. And even he whose ambitious study is man, may not unprofitably observe the various shades of character delineated in the simple, loving, and patient Lepchas, the rude, turbulent Bhotenese, or the pastoral and hospitable tribes of Sikkim Thibetans. All this does Dr. Hooker describe with an unaffected earnestness which commands attention and respect, and which renders his scientific observations as interesting and intelligible to the common reader as they are valuable to men of science and letters.

Of the various tribes of natives he encountered in his wanderings, the Lepchas are evidently the Doctor's favourites. In one place he says:—

In their relations with us they are conspicuous for their honesty, their power as carriers and mountaineers, and especially for their skill as woodsmen; for they will build a waterproof house with a thatch of banana leaves in the lower, or of bamboo in the elevated regions, and equip it with a table and bedstead for three persons, in an hour, using no implement but their heavy knife. Kindness and good humour soon attach them to your person and service. A gloomy tempered or morose master they avoid, an unkind one they flee. If they serve a good hill-man, like themselves, they will follow him with alacrity—sleep on the cold, black mountain, exposed to the pitiless rain, without a murmur—lay down the heavy burden to carry their master over a stream, or give him a helping hand up a rock or precipice—do anything, in short, but encounter a foe; for I believe the Lepcha to be a veritable coward.

The priests are at least as ingenious as the people. So far have they carried their talent for mechanical contrivances as to have invented a machine for the purposes of devotion, which enables them to manufacture any number of prayers without interfering with their ordinary avocations. It consists "of a leathern cylinder placed upright in a frame; a projecting piece of iron strikes a bell at each revolution, the movement being caused by an elbowed axle and string. Within such cylinders are deposited written prayers, and whoever pulls the string properly is considered to have repeated his prayers as often as the bell rings."

The simplicity of games and pastimes in Europe and in the East appears to have led our author to a scarcely logical conclusion. Though he does not express the thought in so many words, it is clear that he thence infers the common origin of mankind, perhaps from a single couple. It would be more reasonable to conclude that human nature being essentially the same in all parts of the world, the unstamped mind of the child is everywhere open to the same impressions, and his wants, real or imaginary, everywhere alike. His body craves for meat and drink, his mind for knowledge and recreation. Similar means of gratification present themselves in every quarter of the globe, and thus the Thibetan employs the bamboo for the same purpose that the European uses the elder-branch. And as men in repose are only children of a larger growth, they too seek to refresh their mental faculties, when wearied by toil, with similar amusements, whether on the Himalayan mountains, or the Highland moors, or on the banks of the Thames or the Seine. We subjoin the passage that has called forth these remarks:—

I was amused here by watching a child playing with a popgun, made of bamboo, similar to that of quill, with which most English children are familiar, which propels pellets by means of a spring-trigger made of the upper part of the quill. It is easy to conclude such resemblances between the familiar toys of different countries to be accidental, but I question their being really so. On the plains of India men may often be seen for hours together, flying what with us are children's kites; and I procured a jew's harp from Tibet. These are not the toys of savages, but the amusements of people more than half-civilised, and with whom we have had indirect communication from the earliest ages. The Lepchas play at quoits, using slate for the purpose, and at the Highland games of "putting the stone" and "drawing the stone." Chess, dice, draughts, Punch, hockey, and battledore and shuttlecock, are all Indo-Chinese or Tartarian; and no one familiar with the wonderful instances of similarity between the monasteries, ritual ceremonies, attributes, vestments, and other paraphernalia of the Eastern and Western churches, can fail to acknowledge the importance of recording even the most trifling analogies or similarities between the manners and customs of the young as well as of the old.

The Sikkim territory, to as we have already incidentally remarked, is under British protection. To this it is indebted for its independent existence. The Nepalese and the Thibetans have equally coveted its possession, and are only deterred from seizing upon the easy prize by the fear of coming in collision with the Company. The political surveillance of the district is entrusted to the Superintendent of Darjeeling, who, at the time of Dr. Hooker's visit, was a medical gentleman of the name of Campbell, eminently

calculated to discharge the somewhat delicate duties of his post with advantage to his employers and honour to himself. The Rajah of Sikkim was an infirm old man, not ill-intentioned, but completely over-ruled by his Dewan or Minister, a man deeply imbued with the worst vices of the Oriental character. The latter was sufficiently ignorant to believe that, if he could get Dr. Campbell into his power, the Supreme Government would ratify whatever concessions fear or suffering might have extorted from their accredited Agent. An opportunity unfortunately presented itself, and, while returning to Darjeeling from an amicable visit to the Rajah, the Superintendent was suddenly attacked, knocked down, and made prisoner. After a lengthened detention, and much ill-treatment, he was only set at liberty when an armed force proposed to invade the country. But what was the reparation for this gross violation of the law of nations, this insult to the British flag? Troops were marched to the frontiers, and the command entrusted to an officer who had distinguished himself in the Nepal war twenty-five years previously. The lapse of a quarter of a century may have increased his prudence—it had certainly chilled his enterprise. He pronounced Sikkim to be impracticable for a British army, and, after remaining encamped for some weeks within three hours' march of the Dewan's ill-armed rabble, our troops were timidly recalled. The country, indeed, was mountainous and difficult, but the inhabitants were generally well disposed towards us, and eager for the downfall of the oppressive Minister. As it was, they brought abundant supplies of milk, fowls, and eggs, and would have continued to do so. But the troops were withdrawn, and the Government contented itself with the resumption of a tract of land lying at the foot of the hills, and which it had formerly bestowed upon the Rajah as a free gift. This was effected, says Dr. Hooker, by four policemen taking possession of the treasury, which contained twelve shillings, and a nouncing to the well-pleased villagers that they were once more British subjects. It is thus that we trifle with our prestige, and are yet astonished to hear of warlike commotions and tumult, as if Orientals were to be governed by any other than an iron hand.

TWO CRUISES IN THE BALTIC.

Two Summer Cruises with the Baltic Fleet in 1854-5. Being the Log of the "Pet" Yacht, 8 Tons, R.T.F.C. By the Rev. Robert Edgar Hughes, M.A.
London: Smith and Elder, 1855.

MR. HUGHES has fallen into the error, so common among writers of travels, of confiding to the public passages intended for the domestic circle. His pages contain many mild jokes, and milder adventures, which would provoke country cousins to laughter and breathless attention; together with some of those dialogues (usually held in a broken language between the "author, who speaks a little French," and "a Frenchman, who speaks a little English") which kind friends consider dramatic, and value as delineations of character. But his book is just rescued from mediocrity by the descriptions of naval evolutions in the Baltic, and the bombardment of Bomarsund and Sweaborg. We must own that Mr. Hughes's manner of speaking of the navy is rather "cocky," considering how slight his experience has been of the inner life in a man-of-war. Yet he criticises manœuvres as fearlessly and readily as an admiral on half-pay, forgetting that the squadron of line-of-battle ships is a more difficult task than the navigation of the "Pet."

Writers in general have been sarcastic on the inaction of our Baltic fleets during the last two years, and have quoted, with tolerable frequency, an ancient saying of a King of France, who "marched up a hill, and then marched down again." There is a better precedent than this hacknied rhyme to be found in Farquhar's "Sir Harry Wildair," where the following bit of dialogue occurs:—

"Clincher. Well, captain, so you took a fine fleet to the Baltic. And what then?"

"Firebrace. Then—we came back again."

The philosophic disregard for glory expressed by Captain Firebrace evidently did not exist anywhere in the fleets of Admirals Dundas and Napier. While we, living at home at ease, abused the navy, and drew fancy pictures of a fleet in the Baltic under the command of Nelson, the officers and seamen of the squadron growled more deeply still, as we may judge from Mr. Hughes's account of the English camp at Bomarsund:—

Nothing puts sailors so much out of humour as inaction in the presence of an enemy; and the notion of landing guns to besiege the forts soder-fashion, while the ships were lying just out of range with colours flying and bands of music playing, was most disgusting to Jack's notions of a British pluck. It was not pleasant to hear the French growling at the inaction, which they did not hesitate to impute to the English authorities; and disparaging expressions were heard repeatedly,—generally, however, accompanied by the saving clause, "*Mais il vaut bien le notre.*" On all sides the greatest disgust was expressed for the modern system of naval warfare; the principle of which seemed to be, to keep out of gun-shot.

"None of that d—d nonsense now we're ashore," said a marine officer; a sentiment in which all present concurred most heartily.

But the stone wall and red-hot shot disease had got hold of the authorities, and the ships were resolutely kept out of harm's way. Meanwhile, disappointment and disgust seemed to weigh heavy upon all; curses low and deep were muttered,—"The French would get the start of us, and gain all the credit of the enterprise."—"Let five hundred marines and as many blue-jackets alone, and they'd take the d—d place before dinner time."—"What's the use of talking, sir; 'twas just the same at that other — place. How do we know the ships can't do nothing if we never tries 'em?"—"The 'Walorous,' along with the 'Hecla' and 'Odin,' nearly got the place in no time, then three by their selves. Give Captain — the command, and he'd larn 'em English."

Among the officers the same opinions were expressed, though, of course, with more reserve.

It would be simply ridiculous to suppose that the navy, composed of manly, energetic, and hearty men, was anything but strongly opposed to what Mr. Hughes calls "the modern system of naval warfare." But the captains of each ship, the officers and seamen, and the admiral in chief command, are powerless when not backed up by the authorities at home. Some people assert that the line-of-battle ships caused our inaction in the Baltic, and that a fleet of gun-boats, mortars, and floating batteries would have

demolished Cronstadt, Sweaborg, and Helsingfors before a week had expired. But mortars and gun-boats, without stores or ammunition, sent to the Baltic for the purpose of making a demonstration, would be quite as helpless as line-of-battle ships in the same condition. Mr. Hughes considers that the attack on Sweaborg was merely intended as a demonstration; to show, in fact, what the navy could do if properly supplied with guns and instruments of warfare:—

The fleet, not being reinforced, was not, in strength, sufficient for any decisive measures; the ships were robbed of their best guns and their ammunition to supply the gun-boats, and, above all, there was no reserve of mortars.

Mr. Hughes tells us that many of the pictures of Sweaborg published in England, are merely fancy sketches, and that its defences do not consist of huge forts, stone walls, and granite towers:—

No lofty cliffs, no perpendicular granite forts were here to offer a fair mark and crumble down under the crushing concentrated fire of heavy ships; no tier upon tier of guns in casemates, but a string of low rocky islands, separated by narrow channels which the eye could scarcely distinguish, but presenting, at some distance, the appearance of one low shore of broken and shelving ground rising gradually, but irregularly, to the height of some thirty or forty feet. Along this coast we saw continuous lines of sloping earth batteries, showing nothing for a mark but the very muzzles of the guns: further back, where the ground rose, little stone forts of seven or eight guns nestled in every nook, and here and there naked guns, mounted on barbettes upon every suitable slope of rock. Then among the buildings every now and then a window could be seen bearing a most suspicious likeness to an embrasure; and, on a closer examination, guns were seen projecting where, at first sight, nothing but a garret window showed.

The works which constitute the defences of Sweaborg and Helsingfors extend over a convex line of some five miles facing the sea. The islands on which these are placed are Storholm (*Large Island*) to the eastward, having apparently a small earth battery; next to this, to the westward, the much larger island of Sandhamn (*Sand Haven*), the whole south face of which is lined with earth batteries, very strong, and, up to the day of bombardment, rapidly increasing in size and number.

Having quoted Mr. Hughes's description of this fortress, we must remark on the petulance he has shown in criticising the correspondence from the Baltic that appeared in some of the London papers. We, of course, do not mean to assert the infallibility of newspaper correspondents; but a gentleman, whose duty it is to send home, with all possible haste, a report of each important transaction, can hardly be expected to have gained a correct knowledge of all that passed in every part of the fleet, and in every Russian fort, five minutes after each bombardment. It is plain that often he has to accept rumours for facts, having no power of determining their truth. Mr. Hughes, writing some time after the events he narrates took place, considers that doubtless he may have been guilty of many inaccuracies. Since he admits that even he can err, he might have seen the necessity of leaving out his constant sneers against "our facetious friend of the *Daily News*," "young gentlemen who write to newspapers," "the ingenious little gentleman who has already afforded some diversion," &c., &c. He need not fear that any one will mistake him for a newspaper correspondent.

So much for Mr. Hughes, the critic and tactician. Of Mr. Hughes, the traveller, we need say little, save that he seems a pleasant and hearty fellow, more adapted, perhaps, for the deck of a yacht than for the pulpit, and for the ocean gales than for the storms of controversy. Whatever be his faults, he is not guilty of the prevailing vice of the day, comic writing; and can speak soberly and seriously of topics at which a funny man would have levelled his shafts of ridicule.

A ROMANCE OF UNREAL LIFE.

Zaidee. A Romance. By Margaret Oliphant. Blackwood and Sons.

THIS novel opens well with the following description of an old Grange:—

The house is such a moated Grange as Mariana herself might have inhabited; a far-seeing, wistful, solitary house, commanding long lines of road, along which nobody ever travels. The freest heart in the world might pine at one of these deep antique windows, and grow weary of its life, looking along the roads from the Grange; and the Grange stands straining all its dark glowing eyes into the day and into the night, as if on constant watch for the expected stranger who never comes out of the wintry, windy horizon. It is a rare chance, indeed, when there is not a reddening of storm in the sunset which blazes upon this uplying house—a still rarer joy when the morning comes without the chill breath of a sea gale—and the sea itself could not witness a wilder riot of wind and brewing tempest than rings about the ears of the dwellers here through many a winter night. The old house never wavers of its footing for such an argument, but stands firm upon the little rocky platform over which a lawn, which has been green for centuries, mantles warmly, and, stoutly defiant of the winds to which it has been used so long, sets its back against the hill, and holds its ground.

In a semicircle round the front of the Grange is the moat, which, in these peaceable days, is nothing better than a pond enclosed in broken masonry, the evil qualities of which bit of half-stagnant water are numerous, and would be more so in a less breezy locality, while its sole good one is an innumerable crop of water-lilies; but no one has the heart to destroy this bit of antiquity, and everyone is proud of the swan-like floating flowers. Behind the house rises the rocky defence of the hill, so sheltered here that it is green with the richest turf, and draped with wealth of hardy, ruddy, half-Alpine flowers. Fruit trees and blossoming shrubs do not refuse to grow under this verdant shadow, and within the warm and well-defended enclosure; and they say it is summer in the garden of the Grange many a day after the autumn winds are wild upon the dreary fields of the level country, and when the last hollyhocks are dying in the cottage flower-plots below. Modern requirements have made sad havoc in the regularity of the building—modern improvements, beginning in the days of Elizabeth, have thrown out oriel windows, and enlarged casements, and built additions, till the Grange, though still not very large, is a cluster of houses, a domestic chronicle of architecture in its own person, and has just that graceful medley of styles and periods which, with the ivies and mosses of old centuries, and the living flowers of to-day, combine to form the finest harmony of an hereditary dwelling-place.

This passage certainly contains the promise of something good: and "*Zaidee*," in spite of a very improbable plot, might have been a readable book if it had only occupied one volume instead of three. The story turns on the extraordinary flight of a child of fourteen, alone and unaided, from

Cheshire to London. More wonderful still, four grown-up men start in search of this child, and cannot find her. Some public conveyance, we are left to suppose (though the fact is not stated), must have carried her from Cheshire to Bedford-place; and yet no trace of her can these four men, all taking different routes, discover. Only one confidant of her secret destination is chosen, and that one the most unlikely in the world to keep the secret—the weak, silly wife of the curate of the parish. The threat of suicide, on the part of the youthful eloper, is supposed to influence poor silly Mrs. Green in her determined silence, though she does venture (after an interval), emboldened by the joy of her husband on the birth of their first child, to confess to him when it is too late. The young lady is traced to Bedford-place; but all clue to her after that is lost, though she leaves very simple-hearted people to go away with very simple-hearted people. To explain the cause of this complication of elopement, misery, and mystery would spoil the interest of the book to young lady readers—for gentlemen readers we fear it may not suit. We cannot imagine a cigar in the mouth and a "Zaidee" in the hand; but we can fancy young ladies working Landseer's Bolton Abbey in Berlin wool, being much interested in the beautiful young ladies of the Grange and their pretty room—in the stately brother Philip, and the clever brother Percy, who turns out a poet and a writer of startling novels, and has the usual quantity of clustering curls. The fairy godmother, as the mamma of these delightful young people is called, may also have her attractions, to say nothing of a sentimental stag-hound, with the wonderful name of "Sermonicus." It seems hard, after the time that must have been consumed in writing these volumes, not to give them higher praise; but the ladies' mania for novel-writing is spreading so widely, because there have been a few successful female writers of fiction, that it seems almost a duty to repress the efforts of those who can only copy from what others have done before them. A tale that has appeared in *Blackwood's Magazine*, when it comes out in three volumes, may be supposed to have more than usual attractions; and doubtless there are good things to be found in "Zaidee," chiefly connected with descriptions of the interiors of rooms and of home scenery—though these last are burdened with endless repetitions about flying clouds and gusty winds. The two most wearisome characters in the book are a crack-brained, rich old gentleman, named "Mr. Cumberland," and a Welsh nurse, "Jane Williams." The personages most true to nature are the Bedford-place family—especially the matron at its head, and her newly-married daughter. The father of this family offers an awful picture of local manners; for he sits in his drawing-room in the evening actually in his dressing-gown! The great attractions of the heroine consist in her stately beauty and her queen-like form—indeed, there are two young ladies answering to this magnificent description, one bearing a great resemblance to the other. They have neither of them powerfully attracted us, because we have a long-standing prejudice against heroines with swelling throats, curling lips, stately figures, and gracefully-sweeping movements. We hope the next time the authoress writes she may condense her materials, and study the probabilities. A happier end she can scarcely make to any future book; for everybody in "Zaidee" is fitted to the right mate, and we leave them all rich and happy.

A BATCH OF BOOKS.

Cross Purposes. By Catherine Sinclair. In Three Volumes. (Bentley, London.)—The authoress of the dreary and foolish novel called *Cross Purposes* was brought to that condition, in consequence of having incautiously "asked herself one day whether, before sitting down finally in the arm-chair of retirement, and before her pen had grown grey in the service of fiction, she might not attempt to weave a story," in which no fewer than four gigantic evils should be "warningly portrayed." With the queerest confusion of general and particular terms, Mrs. Sinclair begins by describing the four evils in question as "four kinds of slavery"—that is to say, "first, the slavery of overdone education; secondly, the slavery of over-worked needlewomen; thirdly, the slavery of intemperance; and, fourthly, the slavery—worse than all united—of Romanism." These several states and conditions of bondage are treated in a turgid and tearful style—something between Fanny Fern and the Reverend Mr. Spurgeon—and in the form of a story, not intensely probable or exciting. A factitious interest is feebly matched, towards the close of the tale, from recent events in the Crimea; and "FALL OF SEBASTOPOL!" is printed, in large capitals, across one page. Some passages in this novel would have been more effective had they been written in the orthography of Mr. Jenmes. For instance, the following:—

Sir Richard stood for a moment agast! Where, in all that prodigious house, a perfect labyrinth of rooms, should he find Theresa? Yet difficulties were always with him a spur to action, and very seldom defeated him; but the gong at this moment sounded its loudest and most peremptory note for luncheon, and it gives a summons that very few are inclined to dispute. "Somehow," said Anne to Captain Clifford, as she descended the broad staircase of Torchester Abbey, "a gong always gives one the idea of a particularly excellent repast. A bell collects vulgar, hungry people to roast mutton and apple-pie; but one always connects the idea of a man cook and turtle with a gong."

Now, let us read instead:—

Sir Richard stood for a momink agast! Ware, in hall that purdijus ows, a puffick labbyrnkth of Rheums. . . . The gong at this horful momink gave hout the sounnd for Luncheon. . . . "Summow," ses Hann to the Capting, as he figscourted her down the brord stares of this venerable habby, "a Gong gives one the hidoer of a perticklerly hexalink Rapask. A bel summimesse low and hilibread pepel to leggs of mutting and seeh kind of corse phood, but won halwesse connex the flavior of potash Allah bisk, and sooprain de pully ho truifs, with the sounnd of a Gong."

Is it not more natural than the correctly-spelt version of the incident?

Life of Alderman Kelly. By the Rev. R. C. Fell. (Groombridge, London.)—The biographer of Alderman Kelly foresees the astonishment likely to be caused by the publication of that worthy citizen's memoirs. "In an age," says Mr. Fell, "like the present, teeming with the lives of men eminent for the services they have rendered their country, or distinguished for their literary and scientific acquirements, it may, at first sight, occasion surprise

that an individual who was not strikingly remarkable for any of these qualifications should be selected as the subject of a biographical memoir; and the question may not unreasonably be asked—Why seek to perpetuate, by a record of this kind, the memoirs of one who, however responsible the official situations he may have held, or exemplary and faithful his manner of discharging their duties, was rather to be admired for his private than his public virtues—for the Christian benevolence of his heart than the brilliant exercises of his mind?" To inquirers who would be likely to put the question in this convenient way for answering, no answer could be more satisfactory than Mr. Fell's. Let us hear. "It is replied, that histories of this kind have a tendency to elevate the feelings of the young; to serve as a stimulus to industry and perseverance; and, above all, to indicate what man, directed and assisted by the grace of God, can accomplish even in this world." Really, we feel almost ashamed of having for a moment entertained a question which Mr. Fell is so tolerant as to call "not unreasonable." Not unreasonable! Can there be reason or right in questioning "histories like these"—histories that elevate youthful feelings, prompt us to habits of industry, and exhibit the utmost attainments of human power, divinely aided? Alderman Kelly was an instance, not very uncommon, of successful, because steady and straightforward (and unobstructed), endeavour, directed simply to "getting on." He was the son of a small, a very small farmer—one who had been a shepherd, and had managed to save two hundred pounds—and he had some little—some very little—schooling before he came to London, and took a subordinate situation in a brewery. From this place, on the failure of the firm, he went to a bookseller's in Paternoster-row, and stuck to business. Finally he became master in the house where he began as servant—as servant, that is to say, in the sense implying quite menial offices. We repeat all this to his honour; and that Mr. Fell may not charge us with suppressing facts of importance to Alderman Kelly's fame, we will add that he was Lord Mayor in 1836-7, and had a letter from the Duke of Wellington about his Grace's statue. A *fac-simile* engraving of this letter enriches the volume; so does another *fac-simile* of Alderman Kelly's own autograph; so, likewise, does a portrait of Alderman Kelly, which is the only dramatic thing about the biography, and wakes us up, any time in the course of perusing the book, by the startling contrast which it presents to our preconceived idea of an alderman.

Adventures of the Caliph Haroun Alraschid. Recounted by the Author of "Mary Powell." (Hall, Virtue, and Co., London.)—This writer possesses, in extraordinary force, the minor dramatic essentials of story-writing. Her thoughts, as well as her phraseology, are always made to reflect the minutest characteristics of her subject. Having assumed the position of a local historian, she acts out the part in a manner than which nothing can be more precise, easy, and natural. Her latest effort was a bold one; but the end has fairly crowned the work, which will remain among the most enduring works of her skilful hand. She has collected and carefully strung together all those "scattered pearls," the adventures of the Caliph Haroun Alraschid. She has given sequence to those adventures, newly arranging and re-forming much of the old materials, and introducing original chapters, which are distinguished, in the table of contents, by an asterisk. She has, finally, sustained the local colour of her narrative with as complete an effect as in her tales of the Tudor age, and of other periods in English history.

CHRISTMAS LITERATURE AND PICTURES.

Punch's Almanack for 1856. Illustrated by John Leech and John Tenniel.

Punch Office.
FOREMOST among the Christmas pictorial offerings, whether for beauty, cheerfulness, or cheapness, stands "Punch's Almanack." We look for it with as confident an anticipation of pleasure as the boy to his Christmas pudding, the young gentleman or young lady to the Christmas party, the "hanger-on" to his Christmas-box, and all to their Christmas pantomime. And perhaps the certainty and habitual continuance of the enjoyment makes us—as in more important matters—forget to be thankful to the provider; yet we, for one (if the plural pronoun can be mentioned in connection with "one"), cannot turn over the pages of this present Almanack without experiencing a renewal of that feeling of gratitude—we can use no milder term—with which we regard the productions of that greatest of comic artists, John Leech.

Mr. Leech, as it seems to us, has struck out a new style in comic art, and shown what a really kind, genial, reverential, and lovable, as well as amusing, thing it may be. No nature will be depraved by the fancies of Mr. Leech. Nay, we might even learn lessons of charity from his broad and honest view of life; while his power of representing feminine and childish beauty is capable of moving our sense of religion deeper than many austere discourses.

This may seem a very serious mood in which to regard a set of mirthful pictures; but the best kind of mirth has its meditative side, which is indeed the test of the excellency of the mirth. And so we exhort all our readers (if the exhortation be not already fulfilled) to get their three-pennyworth of wit, wisdom, and humour, as soon as may be. The general nature of the designs may not be very new—may even remind us of past efforts; but who quarrels with the returning buds of Spring because he has seen them before? And allow us more particularly to commend the final illustration, combining mirth, beauty, and a certain gentle pathos, and exhibiting a complete picture of life from the crowing infant, upwards through round-faced boyhood and girlhood, handsome young manhood and womanhood, to the jovial grand-papa, dancing Sir Roger de Coverley.

The Christmas Tree, and other Tales. Adapted from the German by Frances Kemble. J. W. Parker and Son.

In a Preface of six lines and a half we are informed that these tales were not translated for publication, but that, having given delight to some juvenile friends, they are now put forth for the amusement and edification of juvenility in general. This egotistical modesty is so often the forerunner of a worthless book, that it diminishes confidence before we have read a line; but, in the present instance, the work is not without some features of recommendation. We must object, it is true, to a sanctimonious tone running through it, which is in no respect necessary to true religious feeling; and

more especially do we protest against the moral of the story called "The Stone Tower," in which a youth is smashed to pieces for working on a Sunday. We are also inclined to quarrel with the overheard "wordiness" of the literary style, even though it be sometimes a plethora of good blood, for it must be admitted that a great deal of grave, earnest, German beauty shines through the somewhat German idiom of the English. Saving the pious whine before alluded to, there is a great deal of moral sweetness, combined with picturesque description, in the tale called "Zaccheus." A distorted and ugly dwarf, with a noble soul, undertakes to go up among some savage giants inhabiting high and perilous mountains, to convert them to Christianity; and he succeeds. He is thus represented, Bible in hand, climbing a steep ravine:—

His book, meanwhile, he carried with infinite difficulty in his arms, laying it as you may have seen some little three-year old child going up stairs burthened with a darling dog or cat) tenderly and carefully on each step, to which he himself afterwards climbed; and thus, painfully lifting it, and after it his own poor, crooked body, from step to step of this rough staircase, worn by the white feet of the water in the everlasting rock, he at length reached the summit of the pass; and when the rosy flush of the morning was injected, like life-blood into the cold sky, its lovely tint felt soft and warm on the wan face of the wearied dwarf, who had sunk exhausted on the grass of the valley, and lay sleeping on the very edge of the precipice up which he had so bravely climbed.

Pass in Boots. Illustrated by Otto Speckter. New Edition.

John Murray.

THE charming nursery tale, familiar to all of us, is here charmingly illustrated in a little eighteenth penny book—a perfect gem of a present for the young ones. Otto Speckter is a German artist; and his drawings have the true German perception of the grotesquely ideal. To look them over is like getting into a perfectly new region—a sort of grey, sunless, shadowless, old-world state of things, seen through a film of hovering, dream-like romance. The cat, too, is admirably discriminated and dramatically varied through the different adventures.

The Arts.

MADAME JENNY GOLDSCHMIDT LIND AT EXETER-HALL.

MADAME JENNY GOLDSCHMIDT LIND has returned to us somewhat thinner in person, and perhaps somewhat worn in looks, but the voice is unimpaired in beauty and the sacred fire of her art burns brightly as in the former time. In the *Creation* and in the *Elijah* she has displayed the very highest qualities of a wonderful organ, and of the most perfect discipline and cultivation in its exercise. In all passages demanding power and intensity of expression, her genius is supreme.

It is impossible not to regret that so consummate a dramatic artist should be lost to the stage, but it is easy to perceive that, in Exeter-hall, Madame GOLDSCHMIDT is more at home than on the boards.

The performances of the oratorios have been on the whole satisfactory. A more admirable conductor than M. BENEDICT, or one more congenial

to Madame GOLDSCHMIDT could not be found; and he has already corrected in a great measure those deficiencies in the chorus and the orchestra which were a little too conspicuous at first. Miss DOLBY has, once or twice, almost divided the applause of the crowded audience with the *beneficiaires*; Mr. LOCKEY is always pleasing, conscientious, and correct; and Mr. HAMILTON BRAHAM's recitation is so effective that, if he would but renounce singing, he might almost justify his name. Mr. MITCHELL announces the *Creation* for Thursday next.

NEXT WEEK AT THE THEATRES.

THE Pantomime world is in full activity of preparation from Bow-street to Sadler's Wells, from the Strand to Shoreditch. All the world (except the blind man) must be aware by this time that Professor Anderson has taken the "Theatre Royal, Covent Garden," (how pleasant it is to hear the old name again!) for the production of what his advertisements modestly describe as "The Pantomime of 1855-1856." We have glanced at the programme of "the Pantomime" which is entitled, "Ye Belle Alliance; or Harlequin Good Humour and the Field of the Cloth of Gold," and a very learned production (*pace* Charles Kean) it appears to be. The subject seems a little faded, but it is a pleasant one enough, and affords ample opportunities for the patriotic and national "business." We can scarcely expect too much from the genius of the Wizard and his acute experience in mechanical contrivances on so magnificent a stage as Covent Garden. And when we add that the Pantomime has been invented by Mr. A. HARRIS; that Mr. BEVERLEY has painted the scenery; that the music is by Mr. LODGE; and that the Clown is Mr. FLEMMORE, we have said enough to stimulate the curiosity of our readers.

At DRURY LANE we are promised "Hey, Diddle, Diddle," a sufficiently vague and expansive title, but full of promise to the "younger branches of the family." TOM MATTHEWS and BOLENO are the two Clowns.

The HAYMARKET Bill is very promising. "The Butterfly's Ball and the Grasshopper's Feast; or Harlequin and the Genius of Spring;" suggests something more delicate and dainty than the ordinary Christmas fare. The pretty Miss MARY BROWN is the Columbine again this year. We have heard that the drawings for the insect costumes in the Butterfly Ball have been prepared with peculiar care and are very elaborate and fanciful.

The ADELPHI as yet announces only a "Christmas Novelty." We believe this novelty is an extravaganza from the pen of the best of our burlesque writers, founded on the undying old history of "Jack the Giant Killer;" and we have also heard that Madame CELESTE herself will personate "Jack."

The OLYMPIC promises a Fairy piece; and the little STRAND, "Harlequin Black-eyed Sue; or All in the Downs."

SADLER'S WELLS, of course, has a good old, traditional pantomime, and a merry one, we will be bound.

And so, once more, the theatres which echo all the year our vices, and our follies, and our struggles, will be sunny with the harmless looks, and bright with the laughter of a thousand homes. Happy is the man who has the heart to enjoy Boxing Night.

DEATH.

On the 16th of August last, at Melbourne, aged 67, Robert Anstruther Balbirnie Vans, Esq., one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the colony of Victoria.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Thursday, December 18.

BANKRUPTS.—SARCEL BAKER, Lower Marsh, Lambeth, hatter—WILLIAM COOPER, Nunhead, Peckham, builder—JEREMIAH CHALLENGER WOOSTER, Long-lane, West Smithfield, fancy cabinet manufacturer—WILLIAM PEARSE LITTLE-CRAFT, Davies street, Berkeley-square, furrier—CHARLES ROBERT THOMPSON, Old Broad-street, and Southampton, wine merchant—ROBERT GEORGE WEBB, Stafford, Draper—JOSHUA JAMES PETTY, Bilston, Staffordshire, grocer—THOMAS HENRY TAYLOR, Birmingham, cabinet maker—NICHOLAS and THOMAS ANDREWS, Gateshead, ironmongers—FRANCIS BAKE WEBSTER, Heckmondwike, Yorkshire, blanket manufacturer—BENJAMIN HAINSWORTH, Liverpool, common brewer.

Friday, December 21.

BANKRUPTS.—WILLIAM BEVAN MARTIN, Mark-lane, wine merchant—HENRY KELLY, Arthur-street, New Oxford-street, builder—JOHN JOYCE, Bromley, Kent, baker—SAMUEL HENRY RAYNOR, Lewisham, lively-stable keeper—JOHN HUGHES, Shrewsbury, malster—THOMAS MORRIS, Hoxton New-town, straw hat manufacturer—DANIEL GARDNER, Banbury, Oxfordshire, pump maker—RICHARD LONGFORD, Bath, hotel and lodging-house keeper—WILLIAM WIFFIN and FREDERICK WILLIAM KING, Long-acre, card makers—THOMAS WATSON NICHOLSON, Rookery, Halifax, oil and stock merchant—GEORGE KAT, York, boot and shoe maker—LEOPOLD GEORGE FREDERICK MARKS and JOSEPH HAYWOOD, Horsforth, York, joiners and wheelwrights—THOMAS HAYWOOD and JOHN HAYWOOD, Wood street, Chesapeake, lace warehousemen—WILLIAM THOMAS, Bridgend, Glamorgan-shire, painter—JOSHUA MADDEN, Brandwood Mill, Bacup, cotton spinner—LUKE HORSFALL, Accrington, tailor—SAMUEL ANDREW, Judd, Royton, Lancashire, cotton spinner.

Commercial Affairs.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY INTELLIGENCE.

London, Friday Evening, Dec. 21, 1855.

The Consols market since last week has kept up very firmly. The new Swedish alliance treaty and Omar Pacha's reported victory at Kutais contributing to counteract the effect of certain real sale of stock by the Government Broker. The Bear party hardly yet despond, but the infatuation of the people who will still believe in peace—on no sufficient grounds—tempts them to buy in all the markets in a reckless manner. The Czar having got his loan will surely try another fall, and give up nothing. The markets must feel this—Joins in prospect, and renewed efforts on the part of the Allies will surely depress the funds. At present the Hebrew speculators, acting on Austrian information, for, after all, Rothschild in our sense governs Austria, spite of Popes and Kaisers—believe in the possibility of Russia accepting the terms proposed.

The Stock Exchange Committee have issued a notice to the members of the House, warning them against the Russian loan, and having any dealings with it in any way. Railway Shares are firm. The Great-Western Bears

have had a fright, and are buying stock largely. The shares have been down at 54 this week. Eastern Counties do not seem to lose ground. French and East Indian Railway Shares about the same. Western of Canada are greatly inquired after, and the receipts on that line continue to be enormous—nearly double over last year. Crystal Palace Shares are nearly the same. No business doing in Mines. Prices in Royal Mail, Peninsular, and Oriental General Screw Steam are well supported. At four o'clock—Consols closed for January 10, opening 88½.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Friday, Dec. 21, 1855.

The supplies of English and Foreign Wheat since Monday have been moderate. The trade continued in an inactive state, and will most likely remain so till the result of the Peace negotiations is known. Meanwhile holders are firm, and the little business doing at about Monday's rates. Barley and Oats also meet with very little demand, and prices remain without alteration.

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.

(CLOSING PRICES.)

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.
Bank Stock	209	209	209	207	205	205
3 per Cent. Reduced	88½	88½	89	88½	89	88½
3 per Cent. Consol. An.	88½	88½	89	88½	89	88½
Consols for Account	88½	88½	89	88½	89	88½
New 3 per Cent. An.	88½	88½	89	88½	89	88½
New 3½ per Cent. ....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Long Ann. 1855	101	101	101	101	101	101
India Stock .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto Bonds, £1000 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto, under £1000	78. d	78. d	78. d	78. d	78. d	78. d
Ex Bills, £1000	78. d	78. d	78. d	78. d	78. d	78. d
Ditto, £2000	78. d	78. d	78. d	78. d	78. d	78. d
Ditto, Small	18. d	20. d	78. d	38. d	78. d	78. d

FOREIGN FUNDS.

(LAST OFFICIAL QUOTATION DURING THE WEEK ENDING FRIDAY EVENING.)

Brazilian Bonds (small) 99½	Portuguese 5 per Cents. ..
Buenos Ayres 6 p. Cents.	Russian Bonds, 5 per
Chilian 6 per Cents.	Cents.
Chilian 3 per Cents.	Russian 4½ per Cents.
Dutch 2½ per Cents.	Spanish 3 per Cents.
Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif.	Spanish Committee Cert.
Ecuador Bonds. 81	of Comp. not fun.
Mexican	Turkish 6 per Cents. (act.) 83½
Peruvian 4½ per Cents.	Turkish New, 4 ditto.
Portuguese 4 per Cents.	Venezuela, 3½ per Cents.

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. ALFRED WIGAN.

Wednesday and during the week—THE JEALOUS WIFE: characters by Messrs. A. Wigan, Emery, Leslie, G. Vining, Danvers, Mrs. Stirling, Miss Castleton, Miss Marston, and Miss Bromley; after which a New Extravaganza, by J. E. Planché, Esq., entitled THE DISCREET PRINCESS; or, THE THREE GLASS DISTAFFS: principal characters by Messrs. Emery, F. Robson, Danvers, White, Clifton, H. Cooper, Misses Terman, Marston, Maskell, Stephens, and Julia St. George. Commence at half-past Seven.

MADAME JENNY GOLDSCHMIDT-LIND.

EXETER-HALL.

ON THURSDAY EVENING NEXT, December 27, 1855, Haydn's Oratorio of

THE CREATION

Will be repeated. Principal Singers—

Madame GOLDSCHMIDT, Mr. Lockey, and Mr. Lawler. Handel's Oratorio of

THE MESSIAH

will be produced on MONDAY EVENING, December 31, in which Madame GOLDSCHMIDT will sing the principal soprano part.

The Chorus and Orchestra will consist of more than 600 Performers. Conductor, M. BENEDICT.

Prices of Admission:—Stalls (Numbered and Reserved), £1 1s.; Unreserved Seats (Body of the Hall), 10s. 6d.; West Gallery, 10s. 6d.; Area (under West Gallery), 7s.

Doors open at Seven, to commence at Eight o'clock precisely.

Correct Books of the Oratorios are given with the tickets. Application for Tickets to be made at Mr. MROSELL'S Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street.

* Due notice will be given of the first Miscellaneous Concert.

MUSEUM OF PRACTICAL GEOLOGY, JERMYN-STREET.

NOTICE.—During Christmas Week, and henceforth, the Museum will be opened free to the Public every day but Friday.

(By Order) TRENHAM REEKS, Curator.

FENTON'S 350 PHOTOGRAPHS,

taken in the Crimea, under the Patronage of Her Majesty, and with the sanction of the Commanders-in-Chief.

THE EXHIBITION of Mr. FENTON'S PHOTOGRAPHS is removed to the New Water-colour Gallery, 53, Pall Mall, next to the British Institution. Daily from Ten to Five, and in the Evening from Seven to Ten. Admission One Shilling.

DR. KAHN'S CELEBRATED ANATOMICAL MUSEUM (the rarity and completeness of whose contents have already acquired for it an European reputation, and obtained the warm commendations of the press in this and other countries) is now open daily. A New Series of Original Specimens and Models, embracing some most important and curious features, illustrative of the wonders and secrets of the Human Structure, has just been added to the Collection, which now stands wholly unrivalled in the world. Medical practitioners and students and the public at large are invited to visit the Museum, where Lectures are delivered during the day, and a new and peculiarly interesting one is delivered by Dr. KAHN, at half-past Eight o'clock every Evening, on the Reproductive Functions in Man. Admission, One Shilling.

Just published, price 1s., free by post (gratis to Visitors to the Museum), a new edition of Dr. KAHN'S Treatise, THE SHOALS and QUICKSANDS OF YOUTH. An Essay, specially intended to avert dangers to which the young and susceptible are peculiarly liable, and to arrest the progress of evil.

THEATRE ROYAL, COVENT GARDEN.

Professor ANDERSON, the GREAT WIZARD OF THE NORTH, respectfully announces that this Theatre will open on Wednesday next, December 25th, under his management. He has fortunately succeeded in arranging with the Directors of the Royal Italian Opera for a short season, during which he will produce many novelties at this, the most magnificent Theatre in the Metropolis. On Wednesday, December 25th, he will have the honour of presenting his Entertainment of MAGIC and MYSTERY, on a new and more extended scale, as performed by him 129 times at the Lyceum Theatre, before an aggregate audience of 239,000; to be followed by the Great, National, Historic, and Chivalric Pantomime, which has been so many months in preparation, of THE BELLE ALLIANCE, or HARLEQUIN GOOD HUMOUR, and THE FIELD OF THE CLOTH OF GOLD. Professor Anderson hopes that the Nobility and the Public will appreciate his efforts to open Covent Garden Theatre during the Christmas Season. Associated with the history of the house is with so many glorious recollections of Christmases that have long since passed away, when "The Pantomime at Covent Garden" was the Town-talk at Christmas-tide, and when to go and see it, was as much a matter of course as to place the holly over the mantel, or hang the mistletoe in the hall. Mr. Anderson trusts that a Pantomime reproduced on the same boards—the boards whereon the fame of "Mother Goose" was acquired, and the popularity of the "Great Bed of Ware" was won, and produced on these boards with more attention to details and to scenic effect than has ever been given to any Pantomime, will certainly enlist the Patronage of those whose pleasant memories of Covent Garden render it to them the recognised field of Pantomime triumph, as it will attract the visits of those who have heard only with curiosity of that which the stage of Covent Garden can produce. As the Royal Italian Opera, the house has for years been the most distinguished, as it is the noblest Theatre which London possesses. Since it has been rebuilt and remodelled it has been comparatively shut up to the public generally. The Theatre of Royalty, the House of Fashion, the heavy expenses of its Directors, have rendered it impossible to open its doors at its usual theatrical prices. Professor Anderson now submits his intention (in full confidence that it will be understood and duly valued by the public) to make the admission to the Theatre Royal, Covent Garden, the same as that charged to theatres of less pretensions, and with less capabilities to accommodate an audience. The whole of the magnificent balcony recently erected after the Continental model, and a parallel to which is not to be found in any other theatre in Great Britain, will be retained, and present its unrivalled coup d'œil of beauty every evening; the admission to it will be 4s. The Private Boxes on the Third Tier will be removed, to form a range of Upper Boxes, unequalled by any other theatre in London, the price of admission to which will be 2s. 6d. There will be no Pit Stalls; but the entire of the extensive and majestic Pit, capable of holding more than 1,500 persons, will be given to the public. The Fourth Tier of Boxes will be completely removed, and added to the Amphitheatre, so as to constitute one immense, commodious, and eligible gallery, the admission to which will be ONE SHILLING only, while it will command a view of every part of the stage, and of the stupendous and elegant house. In fact, no attention will be spared by Mr. Anderson to render Covent Garden Theatre, *par excellence*, the house for Christmas Entertainment; nor will he forget, while consulting the convenience of the public, to supply them with the best talent that money can command for their amusement.

The subject of the Pantomime is one of national importance, illustrating, by an historic parallel, the greatest event of this or any other age within the history of the two nations.

THE ANGLO-FRENCH ALLIANCE!

The piece, as will be seen by an explanatory line in the bill, is entitled

"A LEGEND OF THE MEETING OF THE MONARCHS."

And the various circumstances which attended the meeting of Henry VIII. and Francis I. on the Field of the Cloth of Gold, are so introduced as to bear on recent occurrences. The reader shall hear in what manner.

Scene 1.—The Subterranean Abode of the Gnome Britannicus.

Scene 2.—The Land's End, Cornwall, with Departure of the Gnome Britannicus to France.

Diorama No. 1.—The Entry of the Emperor Napoleon to London.

Diorama No. 2.—The Visit of Victoria and Napoleon to the Tomb of Napoleon I. in the Invalides, at Paris.

Scene 3.—The Deck of the Royal Harry, 128 guns—The Departure of Henry VIII. for France.

Diorama No. 3.—The Voyage from England to France.

Scene 4.—The Chateau of Branciforte, Palermo.

Scene 5.—The Field of the Cloth of Gold, including a Grand Ballet, and the Great Tournament, after Holbein's celebrated Picture.

Scene 6.—The Bedchamber of the Monarchs.

Scene 7.—The Farm-house of Blondette.

Scene 8.—The Immense Transformation Scene (painted by W. Beverley) of the Abode of the Fairy Good Humour in the Realm of Eternal Twilight.

The list of the extraordinary Comic Scenes will appear in the Times of Monday next.

The concluding Scene, designed by M. Guerin, painted by Mr. W. Beverley, and on which an expenditure of many hundred pounds has been incurred, will form a Grand Military Spectacle, representing the Apotheosis of England and France, with the Descent of the Genius of Victory with the Coronals of Valour.

The Band will be conducted by Mr. Charles Hall, and will be the largest in London—the performers being first-class.

On Wednesday, December 25th, the doors will open at Half-past Six; commence at Seven.

The Box-office is now open, under the direction of Mr. O'Reilly. Private Boxes (which may also be taken at the principal Libraries), £3 3s., £2 2s., £1 1s., and 12s. Grand Balcony, 4s. Upper Boxes, 2s. 6d. Amphitheatre Stalls, 2s. Pit, 1s. Gallery, 1s.

Half-price at Nine o'clock.

MR. GORDON CUMMING has the honour

to announce that TWO NEW PICTURES will be added to his AFRICAN ENTERTAINMENT, on the 26th.

The subjects will be—1st, The Hunter's Troop of Sixteen Horses, attacked by Five Lions, painted by Harrison Weir; 2nd, A View of the River Limpopo, with large Herd of Hippopotami, by Richard Leitch.

232, Piccadilly. Children half-price in the Reserved Seats and Stalls.

An EXTRA MORNING ENTERTAINMENT, at Three o'clock, on Boxing-day.

FITCH AND SON'S CELEBRATED BREAKFAST BACON, AND FIRST-CLASS PROVISIONS.

"The emporium for rich and delicious bacon is Fitch and Son's, Bishopsgate Within."—*United Service Gazette*.

"We know of nothing more exquisitely delicious than a rasher of Fitch's Breakfast Bacon."—*Weekly Paper*.

This celebrated Bacon, smoke-dried, is sold by the side, half-side, and separate pieces.

THE HALF-SIDE, of 30lbs., at..... 9d. per lb.

THE MIDDLE PIECE, of 12lbs., at... 9d. "

FITCH and SON have also the honour to offer the following superior articles, extraordinary for their *recherché* quality.

RICH BLUE-MOULD STILTON CHEESE.

CHOICE OLD SOMERSET DITTO.

CURIOUS OLD CHESHIRE DITTO.

WILTSHIRE CHAPS AND CHINES.

PICKLED AND SMOKED OX TONGUES.

YORK HAMS, OLD AND NEW, OF DELICIOUS FLAVOUR.

WELL PICKLED BUTTER FOR WINTER STORE.

HOUSEHOLD PROVISIONS.

GOOD CHESHIRE CHEESE, 30 to 60lbs. each per lb 7d.

"AMERICAN DITTO, 30 to 60lbs. " 6½d.

"SALT BUTTER, 30 to 70lbs. package " 12d.

All articles are securely packed for travelling, and delivered free throughout London. Prepayment, or a reference in town is requested with orders to the country.

Post-office orders to be made payable at the chief office; and these, together with cheques, may be crossed with the name of Fitch and Son's bankers, "Sir J. W. Lubbock and Co."

66, BISHOPSGATE WITHIN, LONDON.

ESTABLISHED 1784.

Adam's Improved Patent Groats and Barley.

THE ONLY EXISTING PATENT.

And Strongly Recommended by the Medical Profession.

TO INVALIDS, MOTHERS, and FAMILIES.

THE important object so desirable to be obtained has at length been secured to the Public by J. and J. C. ADAM, Patentees, who, after much time and attention, have succeeded by their *Improved Process* in producing preparations of the purest and finest quality ever manufactured from the Oat and Barley.

To enumerate the many advantages derived by the Public from the use of the Improved Patent Groats is not the intention of the Patentees; suffice it to say that, by the process of manufacture, the acidity and unpleasant flavour so generally complained of in other preparations is totally obviated, and very superior Gruel speedily made therefrom. It is particularly recommended to those of consumptive constitutions, Ladies, and Children; and the healthy and strong will find it an excellent Luncheon and Supper.

The Barley being prepared by a similar process, is as pure as can be manufactured, and will be found to produce a light and nourishing Food for Infants and the Aged, and to contain all the necessary properties for making a delicious pudding. It has also the distinguished character for making very superior Barley Water, and will be found a most excellent ingredient for thickening Soups, &c.

CAUTION.—To prevent errors, the Public are requested to observe that each package bears the signature of the Patentees, J. and J. C. ADAM.

To be obtained Wholesale at the Manufactory, Malden-lane, Queen-street, London; and Retail in Packets and Cans at 6d. and 1s. each, of all respectable Grocers, Druggists, &c., in Town and Country.

DR DE JONGH'S**LIGHT BROWN COD LIVER OIL.**

Prescribed with complete confidence by the Faculty for its purity, efficacy, and marked superiority over all other kinds.

It is entirely free from noxious flavour, and being invariably and carefully submitted to chemical analysis—AND ONLY SUPPLIED IN SEALED BOTTLES TO PRECLUDE SUBSEQUENT ADULTERATION—this Oil possesses a guarantee of genuineness and purity offered by no other Cod Liver Oil.

Extract from "THE LANCET," July 29, 1854.

"Dr de Jongh gives the preference to the Light Brown Oil over the Pale Oil, which contains scarcely any volatile fatty acid, a smaller quantity of iodine, phosphoric acid, and the elements of bile, and upon which ingredients the efficacy of Cod Liver Oil no doubt partly depends. Some of the deficiencies of the Pale Oil are attributable to the method of its preparation, and especially to its filtration through charcoal. IN THE PREFERENCE OF THE LIGHT BROWN OIL OVER THE PALE OIL WE FULLY CONCUR.

We have carefully tested a specimen of the Light Brown Cod Liver Oil prepared for medical use under the direction of Dr. de Jongh, and obtained from the wholesale agents, Messrs. ANSAR, HARFORD, and Co., 77, Strand. We find it to be genuine, and rich in iodine and the elements of bile."

Sold ONLY in bottles, capuled and labelled with Dr. de Jongh's signature, WITHOUT WHICH NONE ARE GENUINE, by ANSAR, HARFORD, and Co., 77, STRAND, London, Dr. de Jongh's sole Consignees; and by most respectable chemists in town and country.

Half-pints (10 ounces), 2s. 6d.; Pints, (20 ounces), 4s. 9d.; Quarts (40 ounces), 9s. IMPERIAL MEASURE.

DEAFNESS and NOISES in the HEAD.

Free of Charge, for the Protection and Instant Relief of the Deaf. A Book of 30 pages.—An extraordinary Discovery.—Just published, sent free by post to any deaf person writing for it. "A STOP to EMPIRICISM and EXORBITANT FEES." Sufferers extremely deaf by means of this book, permanently cure themselves, in any distant part of the world, without pain or use of any instrument. Thousands have been restored to perfect hearing, and for ever rescued from the snares of the numerous advertising, dangerous, unqualified pretenders of the present day. It contains a list of starting cures, published by Dr. F. R. HOGHTON, Member of the London Royal College of Surgeons, May 2, 1843; L.A.C. April 20, 1846; Consulting Surgeon to the Institution for the Cure of Deafness, 9, Suffolk place, Pall Mall, London, where all letters are to be addressed. Personal consultations every day between 11 and 4 o'clock. Sufferers deaf 40 or 50 years have their hearing perfectly restored in half an hour, without a moment's inconvenience. Testimonials and certificates can be seen from all the leading members of the faculty and from patients cured.

ALLSOPP'S PALE ALE.—REDUCTION OF PRICE.—HARRINGTON PARKER and Co., Wine and Beer Merchants, 54, Pall-mall, are now receiving orders for the October Brewings of the above celebrated Ale, in casks of eighteen gallons and upwards, at the reduced price. Also for

ALLSOPP'S PALE ALE IN BOTTLE. Quarts, Pints, and Half-Pints, imperial measure. 54, Pall-mall, October 27, 1853.

HALF-DOZEN HAMPERS.

FINDLATER, MACKIE, and CO., Wine and Spirit Merchants (Agents for Guinness's Extra Stout, and Bass and Co's Pale Ale), 1, Upper Wellington-street, Strand, make up Half-dozen Hampers for Twenty Shillings, bottles and hamper included, containing—

One Bottle finest French Brandy.

One " best Scotch or Irish Whisky.

One " old Jamaica Rum.

One " best and strongest Gin.

One " finest old Port.

One " Sherry.

Delivered free within five miles of their Establishment. Country orders to be accompanied by a remittance.

TO LOVERS OF FISH.—100 Genuine

YARMOUTH BLOATERS for 6s. package included. These HIGHLY ESTEEMED DELICACIES and CHEAP ARTICLES OF FOOD forwarded to all parts, on receipt of penny postage stamps or P. O. O. (preferred). Full and plain directions, County, and nearest station.—Address, THOMAS LETTIS, Junr., Fish Curer, Great Yarmouth.

"This is the third season Mr. Lettis has supplied us with Yarmouth Bloaters, and we find the quality excellent."—J. BRASHOWE, House Steward, Blenheim Palace, October 20, 1854.

"Mr. Lettis.—As soon as you send out your genuine Bloaters, I shall be glad to have a supply as usual. Those I had last year gave great satisfaction."—A. F. COCHRAN, Ambassador's Court, St. James's Palace.

THE BEST AND CHEAPEST TEAS

In England are to be obtained of PHILLIPS and COMPANY, Tea Merchants, 8, KING WILLIAM-STREET, CITY, LONDON.

This is a good time to buy TEA; when Parliament meets it is almost certain we shall have an increase of duty to meet the expenses of the war.

Strong Congou Teas, 2s. 8d., 2s. 10d., 3s., 3s. 2d.

A general Price Current is published every month, containing all the advantages of the London markets, and is sent free by post on application.

SUGARS ARE SUPPLIED AT MARKET PRICES.

ESTABLISHED FOR NEARLY THIRTY-THREE YEARS.

THE COMMISSION TEA COMPANY

HAVE the pleasure to announce that they are now SELLING NEW SEASON'S TEAS, which are of better quality and lower price for two years past.

THE BEST 3s. 4d. BLACK TEA IN LONDON—recommended.

VERY CHOICE SOUCHONG, per lb. 4s.—highly recommended.

THE BEST MOCHA COFFEE, per lb. 1s. 6d.—highly recommended.

Families and all large consumers are respectfully requested to COMPARRE the 3s. 4d. BLACK TEA with any they purchase at 3s. 10d., and their 4s. very choice SOUCHONG with TEA at any price.

The COMPANY pack TEAS IN POUND PACKETS, 7lbs., 14lbs., and 20lbs. Canisters without charge; and forward £3 value, carriage paid.

For the convenience of their customers, they supply Sugars and Colonial Produce at a small per centage on import prices.

Monthly Price Circular free on application.

THE COMMISSION TEA COMPANY,

35, King William-street, London-bridge.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS

are undeniably the finest Medicine in the world for BILE and INDIGESTION.—In all cases of Deranged Stomachs, Determination of Blood to the Head, Bile, Sick Headache, Liver and Stomach Complaints, there is no medicine known that will give such immediate relief as these renowned Pills; young and old, rich and poor, patronise them, so many cures are effected by their use, that their praise is sounded from the temperate climate to the frigid zone; in truth, persons who travel consider them a necessary requisite.

Sold by all medicine vendors throughout the world, at Professor Holloway's establishments, 214, Strand, London, and 88, Maiden lane, New York; by A. Stamps, Constantinople; A. Guidice, Smyrna; and H. Hooda, Malta.

In the High Court of Chancery.

TRIESEMAR.—On the 29th of May, 1855,

An Injunction was granted by the High Court of Chancery, and on the 11th of June following was made perpetual, against Joseph Franklin and others, to restrain them, under a penalty of £1000, from imitating this medicine, which is protected by Royal Letters Patent of England, and secured by the seals of the Ecole de Pharmacie de Paris, and the Imperial College of Medicine, Vienna. Triese-mar, No. 1, is a remedy for Relaxation, Spermatorrhoea, and Ex-haustion of the System, whether arising from accident or climate. Triese-mar, No. 2, effectually cures in the short space of three days, completely and entirely eradicates all traces of those disorders which capivi and cubeba have so long been thought an antidote for, to the ruin of the health of a vast portion of the population. Triese-mar, No. 3, is the great Continental remedy for that class of disorders which infirmly, to the untimely English physician treats with mercury, and inevitable destruction of the patient's constitution, and which all the arsenoparilla in the world cannot remove. Triese-mar, Nos. 1, 2, and 3, are alike devoid of taste or smell, and of all nauseating qualities. They may lie on the toilet-table without their use being suspected.—Sold in tin cases, at 11s. each; free by post, 2s. extra; divided into separate doses, as administered by Velpeau, Lallemand, Roux, &c. To be had wholesale and retail in London, of Johnson, 63 Cornhill; Hannay and Co., 63, Oxford-street; and Sanger 150, Oxford-street; J. H. Powell, 15, Westmoreland-street Dublin; Kames and Co., Leith-walk, Edinburgh; and D. C. Campbell, Argyle-street, Glasgow.

HOT AIR, GAS, VESTA, JOYCE'S STOVES.
STOVES for the economical and safe heating of halls, shops, warehouses, passages, basements, and the like, being at this season demanded, WILLIAM S. BURTON, invites attention to his unrivalled assortment, adapted (one or the other) to every conceivable requirement, at prices from 10s. each to 30 guineas. His variety of register and other stoves, fenders, and kitchen ranges, is the largest in existence.

THE PERFECT SUBSTITUTE FOR SILVER.

The REAL NICKEL SILVER, introduced twenty years ago by WILLIAM S. BURTON, when plated by the patent process of Messrs. Elkington and Co., is beyond all comparison the very best article next to sterling silver that can be employed as such, either usefully or ornamentally, as by no possible test can it be distinguished from real silver.

	Fiddle Thread or King's Pattern.	Brunswick Pattern.
Ten Spoons per dozen .. 18s.	25s.	32s.
Desert Forks 30s.	40s.	46s.
Desert Spoons 30s.	42s.	48s.
Table Forks 40s.	56s.	64s.
Table Spoons 40s.	58s.	66s.

Tea and coffee sets, waiters, candlesticks, &c., at proportionate prices. All kinds of re-plating done by the patent process.

CHEMICALLY PURE NICKEL NOT PLATED.

	Fiddle Thread. King's size, per dozen .. 12s.	25s.	30s.
Desert ditto and ditto .. 10s.	21s.	25s.	
Table ditto 5s.	11s.	12s.	

CUTLERY WARRANTED.—The most varied assortment of TABLE CUTLERY in the World, all warranted, is on SALE at WILLIAM S. BURTON'S, at prices that are remunerative only because of the largeness of the sales. 4½-inch ivory-handled table knives, with high shoulders, 11s. per dozen; deserts to match, 1s. 6d.; if to balance, 1s. per dozen extra; carvers, 4s. per pair; larger sizes, from 19s. to 26s. per dozen; extra fine, ivory, 32s.; if with silver ferrules, 37s. to 50s.; white bone table knives, 7s. 6d. per dozen; deserts, 5s. 6d.; carvers, 3s. 3d. per pair; black horn table knives, 7s. 4d. per dozen; deserts, 6s.; carvers, 2s. 6d.; black wood-handled table knives and forks, 6s. per dozen; table steels, from 1s. each. The largest stock in existence of plated desert knives and forks, in cases and otherwise, and of the new plated fish carvers.

THE BEST SHOW OF IRON BEDSTEDS in the KINGDOM is WILLIAM S. BURTON'S. He has FOUR LARGE ROOMS, devoted to the EXCLUSIVE SHOW of Iron and Brass Bedsteads and Children's Cots, with appropriate Bedding and Mattresses. Common Iron Bedsteads, from 12s. 6d. to 17s. 6d.; Folding Bedsteads, from 12s. 6d.; Patent Iron Bedsteads, fitted with dovetail joints and patent sacking, from 17s. 6d.; and Cots from 20s. each. Handsome Ornamental Iron and Brass Bedsteads, in great variety, from 27s. 6d. to £15 15s.

The alterations and additions to these very extensive premises (already by far the largest in Europe), which have occupied the whole year, are now nearly completed; they are of such a character that the entire of EIGHT HOUSES is now devoted to the display of the most magnificent stock of GENERAL HOUSE IRONMONGERY (including Cutlery, Nickel Silver, Plated, and Japanned Wares, Iron and Brass Bedsteads and Bedding), arranged in Sixteen Large Show Rooms, so as to afford to parties furnishing facilities in the selection of goods that cannot be hoped for elsewhere. Catalogues, with engravings, sent (per post) free.

39, OXFORD-STREET; 1, 1A, 2, and 3, NEWMAN-STREET; and 4, 5, and 6, PERRY'S-PLACE.

Established A.D. 1820.

HEAL and SON'S EIDER-DOWN QUILTS; also GOOSE-DOWN QUILTS, from 8s. 6d. to 24s. of Prices and Sizes sent free by Post.—125, Tottenham-court-road.

Furnish your House with the Best Articles.

AT DEANE'S Ironmongery and Furnishing Warehouses. Established A.D. 1700. A Priced Furnishing List, free by post. DEANE, DRAY, and Co. (Opening to the Monument), London-bridge.

212 MILNERS' HOLDFAST AND FIRE-RESISTING SAFES (non-conducting and vapour-insulating), with all the improvements, under their Quadruple Patents of 1840, 51, 54 and 1855, including their Gunpowder-proof Solid Lock and Door (without which no safe is secure).

THE STRONGEST, BEST, and CHEAPEST SAFEGUARDS EXTANT. MILNERS' PHOENIX (212 degrees) SAFE WORKS, LIVERPOOL, the most complete and extensive in the world. Show-rooms, 6 and 8, Lord street, Liverpool. London Depot, 47A, Moorgate-street, City. Circulars free by post.

RUPTURES.—BY ROYAL LETTERS PATENT.

WHITE'S MOC-MAIN LEVER TRUSS is allowed by upwards of 300 Medical Gentlemen to be the most effective invention in the curative treatment of Hernia. The use of a steel spring (so often hurtful in its effects) is here avoided, a soft bandage being worn round the body, while the requisite resisting power is supplied by the Moc-Main Pad and Patent Lever, fitting with so much ease and closeness that it cannot be detected, and may be worn during sleep. A descriptive circular may be had, and the Truss (which cannot fail to fit) forwarded by post, on the circumference of the body, two inches below the hips, being sent to the Manufacturer, Mr. JOHN WHITE, 223, Piccadilly, London.

ELASTIC STOCKINGS, KNEE-CAPS, &c., for VARICOSE VEINS, and all cases of SWEAKNESS and SWELLING of the LEGS, SPRAINS, &c. They are porous, light in texture, and inexpensive, and are drawn on like an ordinary stocking. Price from 7s. 6d. to 16s. Postage, 6d.

Manufactory, 223, Piccadilly, London.

MONEY to be ADVANCED on MORTGAGE.

A Private Gentleman has £150,000 at his command, and is willing to invest it either in one or more sums upon approved securities. No proposal for less than £100 will be entertained; nor will agents be treated with. Address C. SHEIRWIN, Esq., 7, South-square, Gray's-inn, London.

ST. GEORGE ASSURANCE COMPANY,

118, FILL-MALL, LONDON.

Capital, £100,000, in shares of £5 each. Deposit £1 per Share.

(On which Interest at the rate of £5 per cent. per annum, exclusive of Dividend, is guaranteed by the Deed of Settlement.)

Chairman—Viscount RANELAGH, Park-place, St. James's.

Deputy-Chairman—HENRY POWNALL, Esq., Ludbroke-square, Nottingham.

Secretary—W. C. URQUHART, Esq.

POLICIES ABSOLUTELY INDISPUTABLE.

Annuities and Endowments for families, children, and others on the most favourable terms.

Premiums payable yearly, half-yearly, or quarterly.

No charge for medical fees or stamps.

Loans granted for long or short periods, payable by monthly, quarterly, or half-yearly instalments.

Defective Titles, Reversions, &c., assured and guaranteed.

Italian and French Languages.

MR. ARRIVABENE, D.L.L., from the University of Padua, who has been established in London for three years, gives private lessons in Italian and French at his own house, or the houses of his pupils. He also attends Schools both in town and country. Mr. ARRIVABENE teaches on a plan thoroughly practical, and the most mediocre mind cannot fail to thoroughly comprehend his lessons.

Apply by letter to Mr. ARRIVABENE, No. 4, St. Michael's-place, Brompton.

GIFTS OF FRIENDSHIP AND AFFECTION.

The almost insuperable difficulty so frequently experienced in the selection of an appropriate ARTICLE for PRESENTATION which will fully convey, in an acceptable, attractive, and useful form, the kindly intention of the giver, and at the same time merit the appreciation and regard of the recipient, is now entirely removed by an inspection of the varied attractive manufactures displayed in the magnificent SHOW ROOMS at Mr. MECHI'S ESTABLISHMENTS, 112, REGENT-STREET, and 4, LEADENHALL-STREET, London, consisting of the newest and choicest patterns in Ladies' and Gentlemen's Dressing Cases, Work Boxes, Writing Desks, Drawing and Carriage Bags, Inkstands, Bagatelle Tables, Caskets, Tazzas, French Bronzes and Bijoux, of the newest and most novel description. The Papier Maché Department presents a large variety of the most beautiful designs in Work Tables, Chess Tables, Desks, Blotting Cases, Inkstands, Tea Trays, Pole Screens, Tea Poya, Envelope Cases, Multiformias, Cabinets, Tea Chests and Caddies, Jewel Boxes, &c. Table and small Cutlery of every description. A Show Room, at 112, Regent-street, is devoted exclusively to the display of the best Electro-plated Dinner, Tea, and Coffee Services, Cruet Frames, Liquor Frames, Salvers, Toast Racks, Cake and Bread Baskets, Fish Carvers, Plated and Silver Dessert Knives and Forks in cases, Spoons, Forks, &c. The above but represents a few of the leading articles to be seen at these Emporiums. An inspection will amply repay the trouble of a visit. Same prices charged at both houses.

LAMPES à MODERATEUR, from 6s. to £6 6s.—The demand for these lamps having become general, WILLIAM S. BURTON has collected from the different makers here and in France a variety that defies competition. As many imported from France were found to be inferior in the works, William S. Burton sent expressly to Paris to select only from the best makers, and he can now guarantee each lamp he sells as perfect in all its parts.

	s. d.	s. d.
Bronze lamps, full size	10 0	20 0
Porcelain, plain and ornamented ..	15 0	25 0
Crystal, richly cut	25 0	45 0
Bronze pillar lamps, full size	12 6	21 6
Porcelain ditto	23 6	43 0
Crystal ditto	27 0	65 0
Bronze vase lamps	35 0	81 0
Porcelain ditto, many elegantly painted ..	25 0	125 0
Pure Colza Oil, 5s. 6d. per gallon.		

39, OXFORD-STREET; 1, 1A, 2, and 3, NEWMAN-STREET; and 4, 5, and 6, PERRY'S-PLACE.

Established 1820.

DAVIS AND SIMPSON'S FURNISHING WAREHOUSES,

136, 137, 138, TOTTENHAM COURT-ROAD, Corner of the New-road. Established Twenty-eight Years. Enlargement of Premises. Increase of Stock.

ARE YOU ABOUT TO FURNISH?

If so, inspect this enormous Stock, containing the most recherche manufactures of Giltwood and Dowbiggin, as well as plain substantial Cottage Furniture.

Buying for Cash you will save 20 per cent.

ONE HUNDRED SETS OF DINING-ROOM FURNITURE of superior style and workmanship. YALSCORS DINING TABLES from 3 guineas to 30. CHAIRS, in Morocco, Hair-Cloth, and Roan, from 12s. 6d. to 2 guineas.

An immense stock of Bedding, BLANKETS, SHEETING, COVERS, CARPETS, and FAMILY DRAPERY just received from the MANUFACTURERS.

Furniture warehoused at a moderate charge for families leaving town, or going abroad.

Mark the Address!

CORNER of the NEW-ROAD and TOTTENHAM COURT-ROAD.

THE LEADING and POPULAR ARTICLES

of DRESS manufactured by B. BENJAMIN, Merchant Tailor, 74, Regent-street.—The FELLISIER OVER-COAT, price 3s., adapted for the season. Reversible Waistcoats, price 11s., buttoning four different sides; the 47s. Suits made to order from Scotch, Heather, and Cheviot Tweeds, all wool, and thoroughly shrank; the Two Guinea Dress or Frock Coat, the Guinea Dress Trousers, and the Half-Guinea Waistcoats.

N.B.—A perfect fit guaranteed.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BANKING COMPANY.

Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1847.

The Court of Directors GRANT LETTERS OF CREDIT and BILLS upon the Company's Bank, at ADELAIDE, at PAR.

Approved drafts negotiated and sent for collection. Business with the Australian Colonies generally conducted through the Bank's Agents.

Apply at the Company's Offices, No. 54, Old Broad-street, London.

WILLIAM PURDY, Manager.

London, December, 1855.

GREAT BRITAIN MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

14, Waterloo-place, London, and 30, Brown-street, Manchester.

THE CHISHOLM, Chairman.

RICHARD HARTLEY KENNEDY, Esq., Alderman, Deputy-Chairman.

This Society is established on the tried and approved principle of Mutual Assurance. The funds are accumulated for the exclusive benefit of the Policy-holders, under their own immediate superintendence and control. The Profits are divided annually, and applied in reduction of the current Premiums. Policy holders participate in Profits after payment of five annual Premiums.

The Annual General Meeting of this Society was held on the 30th May, 1855, when a Report of the business for the last year was presented, exhibiting a statement of most satisfactory progress. It appeared that during the two last years, 1853 and 1854, between 800 and 900 new Assurances had been effected, producing an increase of Premium income amounting to £14,000 per annum. It also appeared that, notwithstanding the extraordinary mortality which prevailed during the last year, in consequence of the visitation of the cholera, it had not been found necessary to reduce, in the slightest, the allowance of 3½ per cent. previously awarded to the Policy-holders.

Credit is allowed for half the Annual Premiums for the first five years.

A. R. IRVINE, Managing Director.

14, Waterloo place, London.

BANK OF DEPOSIT,

No. 3, FILL-MALL EAST, LONDON.

Established A.D. 1844.—Capital Stock, £500,000.

PARTIES desirous of INVESTING MONEY

are requested to examine the Plan of this Institution, by which a high rate of Interest may be obtained with perfect security.

The Interest is payable in JANUARY and JULY, at the Head Office in London, and may also be received at the various Branches, or through Country Bankers.

PETER MORRISON, Managing Director.

Prospectuses and Forms for opening Accounts sent free on Application.

GENERAL INDEMNITY INSURANCE COMPANY,

7, Chatham-place, Blackfriars—Capital, £200,000, in shares of £5 each; call, 10s. per Share.

Every description of Insurance business transacted at this office. Policies absolutely indisputable. Guarantees afforded to persons in situations of trust where security is required; also against losses arising from robberies, forgeries, &c. Fire and life insurances effected on improved and safe principles. Plate-glass insured.

Prospectuses, terms of agency, proposals, &c., can be had on application.

H. C. EIFFE, F.R.C.S., Actuary.

J. G. HUGHES, Secretary.

ARGUS LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

39, Throgmorton-street, Bank.

CHAIRMAN—THOMAS FARNCOMB, Esq., Alderman.

DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN—WILLIAM LEAF, Esq.

Richard E. Arden, Esq. John Humphrey, Esq., Ald.

Edward Bates, Esq. Rupert Ingley, Esq.

Thomas Camplin, Esq. Jeremiah Pilcher, Esq.

James Clift, Esq. Lewis Pocock, Esq.

Physician—Dr. Jeaffreson, 2, Finsbury-square.

Surgeon—W. Coulson, Esq., 2, Frederick's-place, Old Jewry.

CONSULTING ACTUARY—Professor Hall, M.A. of King's College.

ADVANTAGES OF ASSURING WITH THIS COMPANY.

The Premiums are on the lowest scale consistent with security.

The Assured are protected by an ample subscribed capital—an Assurance Fund of nearly £400,000, invested on mortgage and in the Government Stocks—and an income of nearly £80,000 a-year.

Premiums to assure £100.

Whole Term.

Age One Year. Seven Years. With Profits. Without Profits.

20 £9 17 8 £9 19 0 £1 15 10 £1 11 10

30 1 13 1 2 7 2 5 5 2 0 7

40 1 5 0 1 6 9 3 0 7 3 14 10

50 1 14 1 1 19 10 4 6 8 4 0 11

60 3 2 4 3 17 0 6 12 9 6 0 10

MUTUAL BRANCH.

Assurers on the Bonus system are entitled at the end of five years to participate in four-fifths, or 80 per cent. of the profits. The profit assigned to each policy can be added to the sum assured, applied in reduction of the annual premium, or be received in cash.

At the recent division a return of 20 per cent. in cash on the Premiums paid was declared; this will allow a reversionary increase varying, according to age, from 6s. to 2s. per cent. on the premiums, or from 5 to 10 per cent. on the sum assured.

One-half of the "Whole Term" Premium may remain on credit for seven years, or one-third of the Premium may remain for life as a debt upon the Policy at 5 per cent., or may be paid off at any time without notice.

Claims paid in one month after proofs have been approved.

Loans upon approved security.

No charge for Policy stamps.

Medical attendants paid for their reports.

Persons may, in time of peace, proceed to or reside in any part of Europe or British North America without extra charge.

The medical officers attend every day at Throgmorton-street, at a quarter before Two o'clock.

E. BATES, Resident Director.

PROSPECTUS

OF THE

Compagnie Generale des Omnibus de
Londres.

(GENERAL LONDON OMNIBUS COMPANY.)

Established in Paris, under Acts of the 4th and 17th Dec., 1855, as a "Société en commandite," by which the liability of each Shareholder is limited to the amount subscribed.

CAPITAL.

TWENTY-FIVE MILLIONS OF FRANCS—ONE
MILLION STERLING.

In 250,000 Shares of 100 Francs, or 24 each. In Two Series; the first, 200,000 shares (£200,000). The Second, 50,000 shares (£500,000). The first series only will be issued at present.

Gerants of the Company,

MACNAMARA, CARTERET, WILLING & Co.

Managers in London.

Mr. JOHN WILSON. Mr. RICHARD HARTLEY.
Mr. JOHN BARBER. Mr. JOHN TREVETT.

Members of the Council of Surveillance.

ROBERT KEATING, Esq., M.P., Director of the London
and County Bank—London.

LE COMTE DE LANTIVY—Paris.

VACOSSIN, Administrateur de la Compagnie d'Assurance
l'Urbaine—Paris.

FREDERIC TOCHE, Banquier—Paris.

EDWIN CHADWICK, Esq., C.B.—London.

AUGUSTIN DUBOIS, Administrateur des Forges de
Montataire—Paris.

MARZIOU, Directeur-Gérant de l'Union Maritime—Paris.

T. HARRISON, Esq.—London.

Bankers.

IN PARIS.—Messrs. GREENE and Co.

IN LONDON.—THE LONDON AND COUNTY BANK.
Messrs. ROBERTS, CURTIS & Co.

Solicitors.

IN PARIS.—Mr. PETIT BERGONZ, Avoué, au Tribunal de
Première Instance.

IN LONDON.—Messrs. WILKINSON, GURNEY & Co.

The undoubted advantages produced by the amalgamation of the Omnibuses of Paris, have originated the plan of concentrating, in one Great Enterprise, the several Associations now working the Omnibuses of London.

If in Paris this amalgamation has made the Capital connected with it the most productive of any employed in locomotion, it is destined to produce in London effects of still greater importance.

Not only will large savings be effected in the present cost of working the omnibuses of London by a system which, being well organised in all its details, and at the same time amply supplying the wants of the public, will enable the company to withdraw duplicate and in some cases triplicate vehicles running over the same ground at the same time, but important improvements, *ad hoc* advantageous to the public and profitable to the company, will be introduced.

As regards the Public:—A complete regularity in the service, which will confer all the advantages that in this respect Paris possesses over London, combined with speed; the adoption of a low scale of charges, and the certainty that there will be no frequent and sudden changes in their amount; the departures and arrivals taking place at precise times, and in accordance with a time bill, which will be published monthly, on the plan of the railway time tables.

As regards the Shareholders:—The receipts of the London omnibuses average £2 7s. a-day each, and the expenses, including wear and tear, about £2 1s. 6d.; this gives in the present state a nett profit of about £100 a-year per omnibus. Under the improved system of working this profit would beyond doubt be considerably increased. The average receipts of each of the Paris omnibuses before the amalgamation were about £2 8s. a day; since the amalgamation their daily average is £2 17s. 6d.

In England, horse-keep—the most expensive item connected with omnibuses—costs less than in Paris.

The Paris Omnibus Company is liable, whenever the profits reach a certain percentage on the capital, to have the annual tax to which it is subjected increased by order of the Government. No such power exists either with the English Government or with the municipality of London.

The purchase of a London omnibus comprises, as in Paris, the omnibus, its appurtenances, as well as the goodwill or "times" of the omnibus.

In Paris the Government compel the running of the omnibuses to be nearly the same at all seasons. In London, on the contrary, the omnibus proprietors can proportion the number of vehicles to the season of the year and the hour of the day, according to the wants of the public only. Hence an advantage in London denied to the Omnibus Company in Paris, which is compelled to run as many vehicles late at night and early in the morning as in the most busy periods of the day, in winter as well as in summer.

In Paris the outside fare is only half the inside fare. In London they are the same, and the outside of the omnibus is as much used as the inside.

The indicator, as used in the Paris omnibuses, is unknown in London; its adoption cannot fail to add largely to the receipts of this company.

As soon as the present omnibuses are unfit for use, they will be replaced by others, affording more comfort and better accommodation to passengers.

To obtain the foregoing advantages, both for the public and the shareholders of this company, the services of the most experienced and intelligent omnibus proprietors have been secured, under whose management the business of the Company will be conducted.

Contracts have been entered into for the purchase of the greater number of the 810 omnibuses now working in London, and it is expected that arrangements for the remaining portion will be completed at a very early date.

The first series of 200,000 shares only (£200,000) will be issued in the first instance. The capital so raised will pay for the 810 omnibuses, the leases of stables, yards, and other property required for the working the omnibuses, as well as for a working and reserve fund; the latter, amounting to about £200,000, will give strength and security to the company.

The second series of 50,000 shares can only be issued with the sanction of a general meeting of the shareholders of the company, and will be used to increase the business of the company whenever circumstances shall render it necessary.

Each shareholder will have the right to this second series of shares at the rate of one for each four of the first series of which he is the possessor.

The duration of the company is for 60 years.

With the present imperfect system of working, each of the London omnibuses gives an average profit estimated at £100 per annum, representing upon 810 omnibuses an annual profit of £81,000, which alone would be sufficient to secure a dividend of 10 per cent. upon the £800,000 first subscribed.

Assuming, in London, with the new system, an increase of 5s. per day (instead of 8s. as has been the result of the amalgamation in Paris), to each omnibus, the result would be, on the traffic of 810 omnibuses, an annual profit of more than £150,000, and upon the capital of £800,000, would insure a dividend of nearly 20 per cent.

The Paris Omnibus Company is now paying at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum.

It is the intention of the company to publish every week the traffic returns.

98½ per cent. of the dividend of the company will belong to the shareholders—1½ only being appropriated to the management.

Out of the capital subscribed, a limited number of shares have been reserved for distribution in England, and may now be applied for.

The applications for shares should be made in the subjoined form, and must be accompanied with a deposit of £1 per share with the bankers of the company, on the number of shares applied for. The remaining £3 per share must be paid upon allotment, on the number of shares allotted.

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Gentlemen, I request you will allot me
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Name _____

Profession _____

Residence _____

Date _____

The above Application must be forwarded to the LONDON AND COUNTY BANK, with the Deposit of £1 per Share on the number of Shares applied for, against which the Bankers will furnish a receipt.

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